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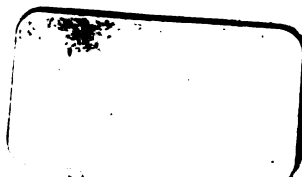
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Urswick church tower



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RECORDS

OF THE FAMILY OF

URSWYK, URSWICK, OR URWICK

COMPILED BY THE LATE

THOMAS A. URWICK

EDITED BY THE REV. WILLIAM URWICK, M.A.

*Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, Author of "The Early
History of Trinity College, Dublin," &c.*

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY W. H. URWICK

Fellow of the Royal Society of Painter Etchers

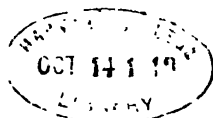
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EDITOR'S PREFACE.

THESE RECORDS are based upon investigations begun by my kinsman THOMAS AUGUSTUS URWICK about the year 1878. He gave much time to the pursuit during the four following years till the middle of 1882, when he removed with his family from London to Corfe Mullen near Wimborne in Dorset. Often have I spent the morning with him in the British Museum Library or at the Record Office; and throughout this period we corresponded on the subject. As early as July, 1880, he made the following proposal:—

“My dear Kinsman,—As we have together been at some pains, with the aid of a few literary friends, to collect chronicles of the old Lancashire family from whom there is circumstantial evidence to prove that our Salopian forefathers were descended, it seems to me that to arrange those details in a readable form would be a task worthy the effort, and would be far more efficiently rendered by you. . . . If your leisure will permit, and you will kindly undertake this, I shall be very grateful.”

Being through other engagements unable to comply with this request, my kinsman himself undertook the task, and the result is the Memorial, the greater part of which now appears in print.

THOMAS AUGUSTUS URWICK died in 1890, and his Manuscript, illustrated with old woodcuts, maps, etc., remains a precious legacy to his children. The suggestion to print it for the use of the family came from his brother, Mr. W. H. URWICK, who is associated with me in its production. My strong affection and esteem for our departed kinsman forbade my declining

to edit the work. Certain portions have, mainly for the sake of brevity, been omitted, in particular the following :—

1. Some coats of arms, heraldic descriptions of family quarterings, with explanations.
2. An epitome of the Wars of the Roses, battle by battle.
3. Brief memoirs of the public friends of CHRISTOPHER URSWICK, namely, CUTHBERT TONSTALL, bishop of Durham, JOHN FISHER, bishop of Rochester, Sir THOMAS MORE, Lord Chancellor, and DEAN COLET.
4. Notices of families with whom the Urswicks were more or less remotely associated.

With these omissions, the Treatise appears for the most part as it came from the author's pen. Very few changes, beyond obvious corrections, have been made. References have been verified, and when lacking, for the most part, and as far as could be, supplied.

The ETCHINGS, by the well-known and experienced hand of my esteemed kinsman, W. H. URWICK, add in no small degree to the interest and value of the book. One could almost wish that the author himself were back again with us, for the pleasure and satisfaction of seeing the fruits of his toil in print. The work stands as a fit memorial of his care, his industry, and his perseverance, blended with the kindly gentleness, the quiet humour, and the Christian simplicity that characterized him.

WILLIAM URWICK.

49, *Belsize Park Gardens,*
London, N. W.
June, 1893.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
EDITOR'S PREFACE - - - - -	iii.
I. ORIGIN OF THE FAMILY OF URSWICK - - - - -	1
II. DODSWORTH AND THE URSWICK PEDIGREE - - - - -	6
III. FOUNDATION OF FURNESS ABBEY - - - - -	10
IV. POST-MORTEM INQUISITIONS, OFFICE OF ESCHAETOR, &c. - - - - -	17
V. ROBERT DE URSWICK (SON OF ADAM), KNIGHT OF PARLIAMENT AND LORD OF UPRAWCLIFFE - - - - -	21
VI. WALTER DE URSWICK, OF CATTERICK IN RICHMONDSHIRE - - - - -	25
VII. ROBERT URSWICK, OF UPRAWCLIFFE AND OF BADSWORTH, SON OF ROBERT OF UPRAWCLIFFE - - - - -	32
VIII. SIR THOMAS URSWICK, OF BADSWORTH - - - - -	39
IX. URSWICKS OF LINCOLNSHIRE, KENT, AND LONDON - - - - -	42
X. THE URSWICKS OF BADSWORTH (CONTINUED)—ROBERT, SON AND HEIR OF THOMAS - - - - -	45
XI. URSWICKS OF LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE, COEVAL WITH THOSE OF BADSWORTH - - - - -	54
XII. THOMAS URSWICK, RECORDER OF LONDON AND AFTERWARDS CHIEF BARON OF THE EXCHEQUER - - - - -	63
XIII. CHRISTOPHER URSWICK, DEAN OF WINDSOR AND RECTOR OF HACKNEY:—	
Early Life - - - - -	81
Chaplain to the Countess of Richmond and her son - - - - -	84
Almoner to Henry VII. with Ambassadorial functions - - - - -	88
Canon and Dean of Windsor - - - - -	95
Friendship with Erasmus - - - - -	103
Appointed Rector of Hackney - - - - -	107
Letter to Thomas Goldstone - - - - -	120
Last Will and Testament - - - - -	125
Tomb and Inscription - - - - -	132

XIV. DISSOLUTION OF THE MONASTERY OF FURNESS - - -	140
XV. FAMILIES WITH WHOM THE URSWICKS WERE ALLIED:—	
Le Fleming of Aldingham, Coniston, and now of Rydal -	149
Southworth of Samlesbury and Uprawcliffe - - -	156
Kirkbys of Kirkby Ireleth - - - - -	159
Le Scrope, or Le Scroop, of Bolton, Danby, Masham, and Upsall - - - - -	163
Radcliffe (or Ratcliffe) of Radclyffe Tower, Ordsal, &c. -	165
Hornby of De Hornby - - - - -	166
Hertforth of Badsworth - - - - -	167
Molyneaux, or Molineux, of Sephton - - - - -	168
Redman, or Redmayne, of Levins, Westmoreland - -	169
Vavasor, or Vavasour, of Willitof, Spaldington, Bubwith, Badsworth, &c. - - - - -	175
The Haryngtons of Haverington, in Cumberland - -	177
XVI. SETTLEMENT OF THE HARYNGTONS AND URSWICKS IN SHROPSHIRE - - - - -	188
XVII. THE SHROPSHIRE URWICKS - - - - -	209

NOTES AND PEDIGREES.

1. Explanation of the Brass Effigy of Christopher Urswick (given on opposite page) - - - - -	223
2. Lambeth Survey (1650) on Urswick Church - - - - -	224
3. Pedigrees—(1) The Hanwood and Shelton Urwicks (2) Urwicks of Stow-on-the-Wold (3) The Urwicks of Broom (4) Urwicks of “the Moor” (5) Urwicks of Beckjay	
4. List of Works from which the Records of the Urwicks have been drawn - - - - -	225

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

✓ URSWICK CHURCH TOWER	- - - - -	frontispiece
✓ URSWICK VILLAGE AND TARN	- - - - -	page 5
✓ FURNESS ABBEY	- - - - -	,, 17
✓ SIR WALTER URSWICK'S MONUMENT IN KATTERICK CHURCH	- - - - -	,, 31
✓ BRASSES OF SIR THOMAS URSWICK, HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN IN DAGENHAM CHURCH, ESSEX	- - - - -	,, 73
✓ CHRISTOPHER URSWICK'S TOMB IN HACKNEY CHURCH	- - - - -	,, 133
✓ OLD HACKNEY CHURCH TOWER	- - - - -	,, 139
✓ ROUND CHAPEL IN LUDLOW CASTLE	- - - - -	,, 189
✓ LUDLOW CASTLE	- - - - -	,, 209
✓ BRASS OF CHRISTOPHER URSWICK UPON HIS TOMB IN HACKNEY CHURCH	- - - - -	,, 223
✓ THE URSWICK SHIELD, viz., <i>Argent, on a bend sable, three lozenges of the field, each charged with a saltire gules.</i>		





I.

Origin of the Family of Urswick.

AT the period of the Norman invasion, that detached portion of Lancashire which is bounded by the Bay of Morecombe, and the streams of Duddon and Winster, and therefore by the Monks not inaptly termed an *Island*, fell to the lot of the Norman Knight, Sir Roger de Poitou.* We can scarcely venture to form an idea what the position of the conquered inhabitants may have been under his domination; in all probability, it was very fortunate for them, that Sir Roger, having given offence to the King, was dispossessed of that lordship, then known as *Hougen*, or the Hill. The Manor of Aldingham, then nearly 2,500 acres in extent, was granted by the King to his friend Sir Michael de

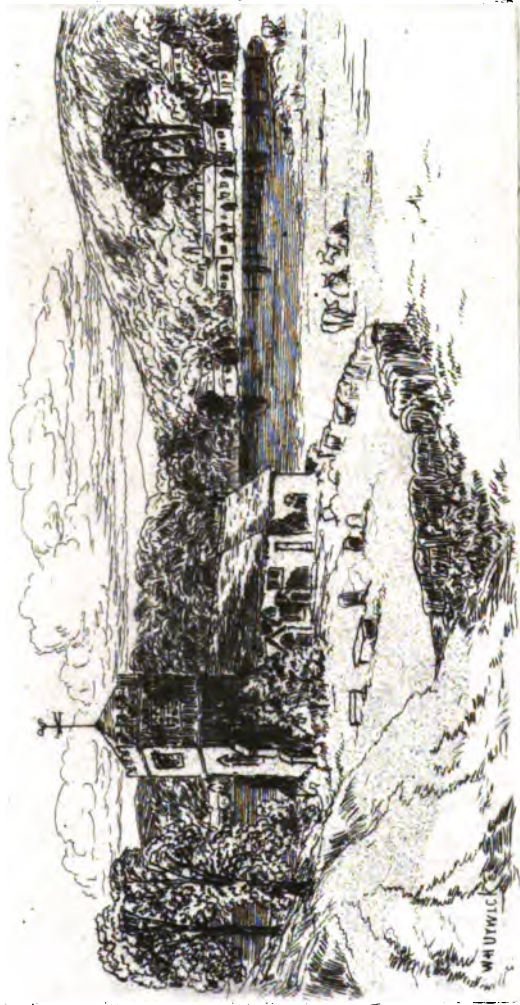
* Or Poictou. He held for a time all the lands between the Ribble and the Mersey.

Sir Michael's possessions, situated within the Urswick lands, and for that reason called Michael's Urswick, and afterwards corrupted to Much Urswick, in precisely the same way as already mentioned with regard to the derivation of the term *Much-lands*. As to the origin of the name of this village of URSWICK, it may possibly have been founded by URSE, the Saxon Lord, whose descendants, after the Conquest, were found to have settled in Somersetshire, where they held the great manor of Williton, having Normanized their name to FitzUrse, or son of Urse, but prior to this their ancestors had held lands in Grittleton, Wiltshire, so that the association of their name, if any, with the *Wyke, Wick*, or village of *Urse*, must have been of a much earlier and Saxon date.*

There remains nought to be told of old BERNULPH DE URSE-WYKE, as his Norman neighbours termed him, except that among his kinsfolk he was simply plain Bernulph, for the Saxons had hardly yet learned to realise and appreciate the advantages of an hereditary surname, and so at the period in which it came into vogue, and was universally adopted, each member of a family might be named after the estate which he occupied, and might thus become the possessor of a family name distinct from that of his father. In this individual instance, therefore (although it would equally apply to the Penningtons, Bardseas, or any of their Saxon neighbours),

* For an account of FITZURSE, see Freeman's *History of the Norman Conquest*. Let it be well digested, however, that the families of Urse, Fitzurse, there described, though possibly the builders of the rude fort of Ursewick, had naught to do with our Saxon family of Bernulf.

Urswick Village & Tarn



the URSWICKS, as a *family* bearing that name, could not be said to have existed before the reign of Stephen.

This, however, after a lapse of centuries, would not account for the comparative paucity of their descendants without a combination of other causes; many of them having been monks; many having perished on the battle field; while those whose possessed estates oft failed in heirs male, and the lands passed by marriage to others.

We have no record at this early date regarding the wife of Bernulph, or his sons GILBERT and ADAM; but Gilbert had a son named GAMEL who had a son ADAM, a name which was in great favour with the family, judging from its repetition in successive generations. This ADAM, son of Gamel, son of Gilbert, was one of the earliest benefactors of the Monastery of Furness, founded by Stephen, Earl of Bologne, before he was made King.

The foundation of that Monastery, and Adam's gift to the same, will be spoken of presently, after a few remarks on the Urswick pedigree, and its author, Roger Dodsworth.



II.

Dodsworth and the Urswick Pedigree.

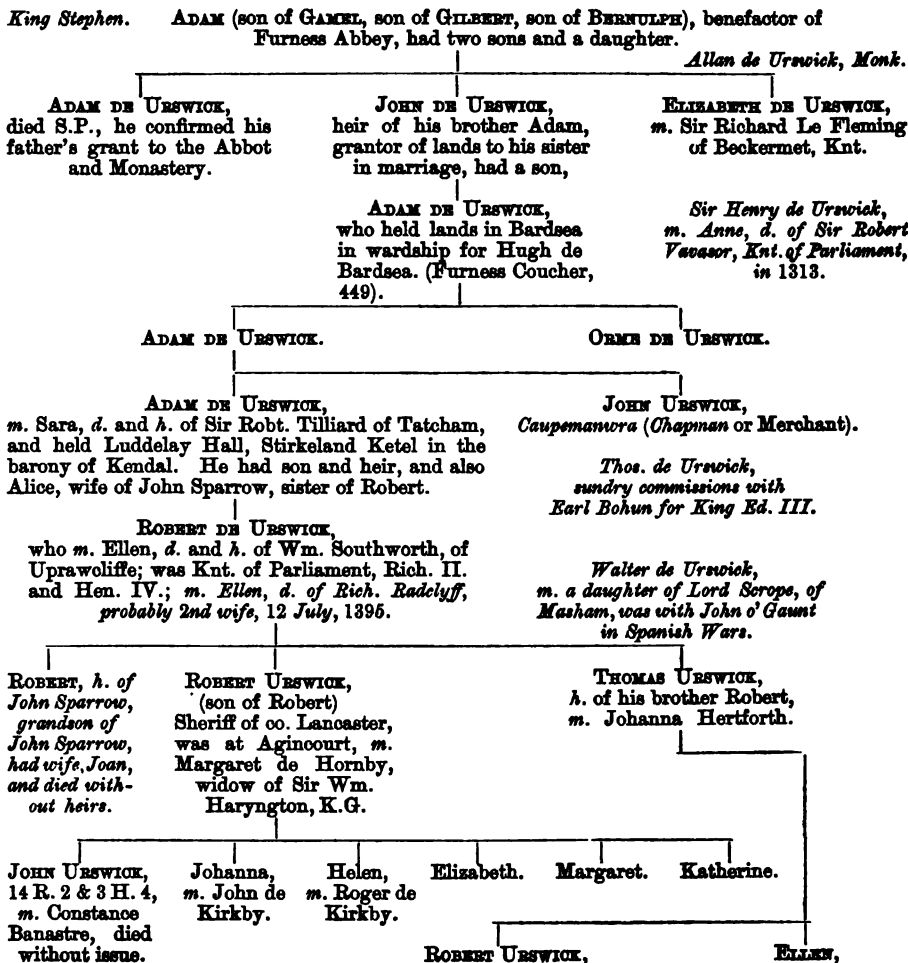
ROGER DODSWORTH was the son of Matthew Dodsworth, Registrar of York Cathedral; he was born on the 24th July, 1585, died in August, 1654, and was buried at Rufford, Lancashire; he was a man of wonderful industry, always collecting and transcribing, but never publishing anything. His voluminous manuscripts, consisting of 122 volumes of his own writing, besides original collections amounting in all to 162 volumes folio, were presented to the Bodleian Library at Oxford by his great patron, Thomas Lord Fairfax, the well-known Parliamentary general.

To Dodsworth we are indebted for the most extended pedigree of the Urswick family apparently extant, but it is very incomplete.

Dodsworth's interest in the Urswicks seems to have consisted in their connexion with his own family through the medium of the Hertfords, and the Thoresbys; having shewn this, he relinquishes the task, only bringing into prominence the Lords of Upwauld and Badsworth, which estates they held for two generations each, and quite ignoring junior members of the family, who also made their mark in history. We here subjoin an abridged form of the pedigree, adding in *Italics* other members of the family mentioned in various works.

AN ABRIDGEMENT OF ROGER DODSWORTH'S PEDIGREE OF THE URSWICKS, omitting the collateral branches of Banastre or Banister, Balderston, Thoresby, Branthwait, &c., and annexing some omissions in italics.

N.B.—Abbreviation—*m.*, married; *d.*, daughter; *h.*, heir or heiress.



COEVAL.
SIR THOS. URSWICK,
*Recorder of London. H. VI.,
Baron of the Exchequer,
R. IV.*

ROBERT URSWICK,
son of Thos., m. Katherine
Haryngton, had d., ISABEL
URSWICK, who m. Sir Wm.
Vavasour.

*This Isabel founded a chantry
at Badsworth. Christopher
Urswick was one of the
witnesses to the foundation
charter.*

ELLEN,
d. of Thos. Urswick,
m. 1st, Sir Richard
Molineux; 2nd, Sir
James Haryngton.
*By 1st m. had two sons
and three daughters,
and by 2nd m. with
James Haryngton, one
son, Richard Haryng-
ton, who m. Mabel
Bradshaw.*

*Note.—There is an
Edward Urswick re-
corded as witness to
a deed respecting the
Bradeshag or Brad-
shaw estate.*

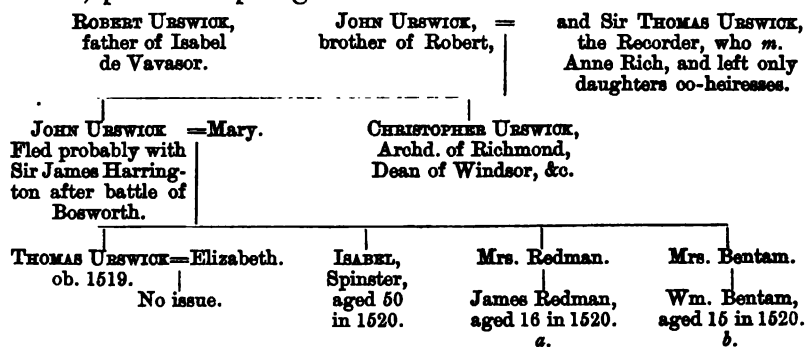
This is the extent of the pedigree furnished by Roger Dodsworth; there is an ambiguity about the second named Robert Urswick, Dodsworth showing that he had *five daughters*, besides a son John (who died early), whereas a post-mortem inquisition of John Sparrow states that he died “without heirs of his body”; nevertheless both agree that his brother Thomas was heir to his estates. Such was the attachment in those days to a Christian name, and the desire to retain it in a family, that not infrequently two of its members would be similarly baptised, in order to secure (against contingencies, if possible) the old association of the *name* with the *heritage*. Possibly this may have been the case in the generation in question, and Thomas, surviving both his brothers, thus became heir to both.

We now add an appendix to the above pedigree, furnished by a perusal of post-mortem inquisitions, and scraps of history.

CHRISTOPHER URSWICK, of Yorkshire, had a daughter married to Thos. Rasby about 1470. JOHN URSWICK and his

wife (some time attached to the Chapter of Furness Abbey) had sons, viz., (JOHN* URSWICK, who is not stated to be dead in 1519, but his wife MARY is shewn to be still living at that time), and CHRISTOPHER URSWICK. Archdeacon of Richmond, Rector of Hackney, born 1447, died 1520-1. The Christopher named above was his uncle, born about 1420.

JOHN URSWICK and MARY his wife had a son THOMAS, who died in 1520, without issue, leaving a widow ELIZABETH; and three daughters, viz., ISABEL, aged 50 at her brother's death, and heiress of most of his lands, she being apparently a spinster; and two others whose Christian names are not mentioned, the wives respectively of Wm. Redmayn and Mr. Bentam; so we may without running the risk of erring much, place the pedigree thus:—



a. b.—These were the future heirs to the estates of the said Thomas Urswick.

The different members of the family shall be treated of in detail, after introducing the subject of the foundation of Furness Abbey.

* His name is not mentioned in the document, but as an elder son he was probably named after his father. "John" appears at Felhampton with Harrington 1523.



III.

Foundation of Furness Abbey.

THIS noble pile was founded by the Charter of Stephen, Earl of Bologne, in the month of July, in the year 1127. The monks who formed the establishment were brought from Tulket near Preston, in Amunderness, Westmoreland, where they had previously seated themselves under the direction of Evanus, who originally brought them from the Monastery of Savigny, in Normandy ; Stephen, in his Charter, bestowed all his possessions in Furness, with the exception of those lands which were held by Sir Michael le Fleming, on this Monastery, and Sir Michael gave to the Abbot his two villages on the coast, viz., Ros and Crivelton, being convenient for their fishing, in exchange for the manors of Bardsea and Urswick. Sir Michael decidedly had the best of the bargain, for the two villages were for the most part, if not entirely, submerged shortly after by the encroachments of the tide, while Bardsea and Urswick remained high and dry. Urswick Church was not included in this transaction, for the reason that the Abbot of Furness had already bestowed

it upon his own son-in-law, Daniel, and it was therefore no longer his property. Wm. son of Edwd., held 60 acres of land in Urswick, which was granted to him by Sir Michael, by Charter on the young man's marriage, having been as we suppose, held on wardship, and for which he—William de Urswick—paid a rent or service of 5/- *per annum*. Sir Michael lived to a great age, and in the evening of his days, he gave, to the Abbot and Monastery without any reservation, his estate of Fordeboe.*

Next on the list of benefactors comes Wm. de Lancaster, Baron of Kendal, who gave his lands of Scathwaite and Egton, with all appurtenances, viz., 2 large and 2 small boats, and 40 nets for fishing in the waters of Thurston and Windermere; but a strict proviso was made that any servants of the Abbey found trespassing within the Baron's forests should be punished at his discretion. It was also stipulated that at the death of the said Baron, his body should be interred within the presbytery of the said Abbey, and near to the remains of his grandfather, Wm. de Lancaster. This deed of gift, with its conditions, was confirmed by his widow, Lady Agnes, and dated at Kirkby in Kendal, on the 6th November, 1240, but during the Baron's life there had been several endowments to the Abbey from different sources. For instance, in 1217, Alexander de Kirkby gave the advowson of the Church on his estate of Kirkby, and in 1225, a place called Setplangarthes, near his own Grange of Dunerholme, to the Abbot and Monastery of Furness, besides four hides of land in Kirkby. Then Richard de Broughton, of Broughton Tower, gave Rosthwaite Bank and other parcels of land which he had inherited from the Kirkbys of Kirkby Ireleth.

Helwise, daughter of the second Wm. de Lancaster, baron of Kendal, gave buck, doe, and falcon, and all right to lands which her father had held in the precincts of the Abbey.

* Nicolson and Burn, *History of Westmoreland and Cumberland*, I. 152.

John, son and heir of Roger de Lancaster, gave all the wood, morass, and pasture, called Angerton Moss ; and John, son of Robert de Haryngton, Knight, also gave the moiety of the same which he had held, and which was tenanted by the Vicar of Dalton, without any reservation, viz., with free ingress and egress. Adam de Huddleston confirmed the deed which had been made by Ralph Kirkby and Christopher Broughton with his wife Christian, in the preceding generation, of forty mossrooms (or pastures) given by them out of their Broughton estate.

William of Lowick, son of Robert *de Turribus* (i.e., of the Towers) gave a rent of 5/- per annum out of his farm, which we may conclude to have been a liberal donation, considering that it was noteworthy that Stephen, Earl of Bologne, Moreton, and Warren gave to the Abbot of Furness 3/- each time that he appeared at his court.

The Abbots of Furness claimed a right to the churches of Ulverston and Pennington, as dependant on the Church of Urswick, then their property, as before mentioned, it was at one time a subject of dispute, but apparently decided in their favour.*

These few examples shew how rapidly the prosperity of this Monastery increased, until the Abbots were mesne lords of half the country round. One benefaction to the Abbey has been purposely left until the last, although it was evidently of early date, in order that it might lead directly to the continuation of the family history.

Adam de Urswick gave five hides, or about 600 acres of land, out of his estate in Urswick to the Abbot and Monastery of Furness,† and this grant was confirmed in due form at his father's death by the eldest son of the benefactor, also named Adam.

* T. West, *Antiquities of Furness*, App. xi.

† West's *Furness*, edited by W. Close, p. 99.

Allan de Urswick,* was one of twelve monks who, headed by Abbot Gerold, left Furness Abbey to establish the sister Convent of Caldre, in Coupland, Cumberland, on the 10th of January, 1134, being the last year of the reign of Henry the I., and seven years after the foundation.

Adam de Urswick, son of Gamelus, or Gamel de Urswick, being the Adam before mentioned who was grantor of five hides of land to the Monastery, held among other lands, a bovate of land in Much Urswyk,† of Michael, son of Wm. le Fleming of Aldingham.

This Michael was the great-great-grandson of the first Sir Michael Le Fleming, and was unfortunately drowned in Leven Water in attempting to ford the sands when the tide was unfavourable. His sister Alice being sole heiress to his personal estate, married Richd. de Cancefield, and the Aldingham estate passed into that family, and from them, two generations later, in a similar way, viz., by marriage, to the Haryngtons, of Gleaston Castle.

The elder branch of the family of Le Fleming thus becoming extinct, the descent, so far as the patrimonial estates were concerned, was henceforth traced from the heirs of the second son of the first Sir Michael, viz., Sir Richard of Beckermest (or Caernarvon Castle, as it was also called), and at the time (*temp.* Henry III.) the representative of this branch of the family was a Sir Richard of Beckermest, being the great-grandson of the Sir Richard above mentioned.

Adam de Urswick had two sons and a daughter, viz., Adam, John, and Elizabeth. The eldest does not appear to have .

* See *Annales Furnesienses*, by T. Alcock Beck, p. 172 sqq.

† Baines's *Lancashire*, IV., 649, 650. This lease was granted on Ascension Day, 16th May, 1230, i.e., in the fifteeneth year of the reign of Henry III.

married, at all events he left no family, and his brother John inherited his lands; Elizabeth was wedded to Sir Richard le Fleming, and her marriage portion was the "Manor of Coniston." Her brother John also made over, in exchange for other lands, all the property which he held in Urswick, Claughton and Kerneford, and the witnesses to this deed were Roger de Lancaster, John de Cancefield, John de Kirkby, Richard de Kirkby, and others.* This union of ELIZABETH URSWICK with Sir Richard le Fleming is memorialized by the representation on painted glass at Rydal Hall, Westmoreland, (the present seat of the family of Le Fleming), of the arms of Urswick, being first on a list of thirteen shields of families with whom they have at different periods been allied. After Sir Richard's death, his widow Elizabeth granted to her son John all the land in Kerneford, being part of the estate made over to her by her brother. Witnesses, her said surviving brother John, Matthew de Redman, and Adam de Berwick. She also corroborated or confirmed her father's gift of land to the Abbey, in the presence of Sir John Huddleston, Allan de Pennington, and Wm. de Cancefield, knights. We learn, concerning her brother John, that a son of his, viz., Adam, father of Adam and Orme, had the wardship of the person and estates of Hugh, son and heir of Adam de Bardsea, (during that young gentleman's minority), which office was released to him by the Abbot of Furness; among other lands, he held con-

* Nicolson and Burns, I., 155. Coucher Book of Furness (Atkinson), p. 73.

jointly with Nicholas Preston,* vicar of Kirkby-Stephen, 12 acres of arable land, 6 of meadow, and 6 of pasture with appurtenances, and these they together granted to another member of the Preston family, and more than 200 years later the title to these lands was disputed by Nicholas Haryngton with a Richard Preston, their descendant; the matter was, however, decided by arbitration, and the old deed being produced, Haryngton failed to substantiate his claim.

One fact with regard to Adam Urswick's gift to the Abbey must not be omitted, viz., the arms of the family were, with those of other benefactors, depicted on the noble east window, which is stated to have been rescued from destruction, and conveyed to Bowness Church, Windermere, while others dispute the point, and say that the window there shewn was brought from Cartmel Priory.†

To return to John de Urswick, he had a son Adam (who

* The Prestons were a Westmoreland family, whose descendants after the Dissolution purchased the site of Furness Abbey from the trustees of the Crown. We get no records of Sir HENRY URSWICK, Knt., but those mentioned on the pedigree, his father-in-law, Sir Robt. Vavasor, was son of Sir Wm. Vavasor by Constance, daughter of Sir Wm. Mowbray, Knt.

† The first conjecture is probably the true one. The picture in the second light on the left above the Urswick arms is described by some as intended to represent the Entry into Jerusalem, a notion utterly fanciful and untenable. There are four figures, two and two engaged in conversation; 1st on the left a monk with cowl speaking with (2nd) a bearded man sitting high in yellow with hat on, and holding a roll in both hands. 3rd, a monk with cowl conversing with (4th) a figure seemingly a lady, a female face. Above is a small portrait of a lady, head and bust. The picture is probably intended to represent the gifts of the Urswicks, Elizabeth Urswick in particular, to the Abbey.

held the wardship of Hugh Bardsea), and this Adam had two sons, viz., Adam and Orme. Orme gave to the Abbot "a mossroom" in Kellet, which gift was confirmed in the next generation by (apparently) his nephew, John Caupemanwre de Urswick.*

And now we come to Adam, brother of Orme, son of Adam, the last of that name on record, "Robert" becoming now the favourite name for three generations.

This last named Adam de Urswick was, in the year 1332, being the sixth of the reign of Edward the III., appointed chief forester of Bowland, or as some render it, Constable of Bowland Forest; in 1343 he married Sara, daughter and heiress of Robert Tilliard, Esq., of Tatham,† and had a grant of land from the barony of Kendal, and the tenement of Luddelay Hall, in Strickland ‡ Kettle, about two miles south west of Kendal. His *post mortem* Inquisition § gives evidence that he died a few days after the 25th of September in the year 1361, and that his son Robert succeeded to his estates. A few words of explanation as to the nature and meaning of these *post mortem* Inquisitions will not be out of place.

* "John *Caupemanura* (chapman or merchant), son of Adam de Urswick, confirmed to the Monks of Furness the moss-room in Kellet which Orme de Kellet had given them." West's *Furness*, App. no. xi. 19.

† Tatham, within a mile of Hornby; the Haryngtons had a "fair manor house" there.


‡ Then spelt Stirkeland Ketel; Stirkeland, land of Stirkes, Stires, or Steers; see Stiresacre, Garstang, folios 83 and 117

§ The Inquisition was taken a few days before the 22nd December, viz., about 3 months after his death.



IV.

Post-mortem Inquisitions, Office of Eschaetor, &c.

HE Post-mortem Inquisition, or Enquiry, was a necessary ceremony in those feudal times, when a testator had neither the knowledge nor power to dispose of his own property, so varied were the conditions of tenure. It was conducted by a Jury of no determinate number ; it might be twelve, more, or less, and attended by an officer of the King, styled Eschaetor, who watched the proceedings on behalf of the *Crown*, and whose business it was to determine if the property of the deceased or any portion of it might revert thereto, either from his having died without heirs, or having been an alien, or guilty of treason. If none of these causes existed, or if the estates were held not immediately of the king, but of some lesser lord, the disposition of the estates, and the appointment of a guardian for the heir (if a minor), would be determined by the Jury, who were impanelled by the Sheriff of the county.

The office of Eschaetor was, like that of Sheriff, only tenable for a year ; they were sometimes called officers of

record ; the king. could make no seizure until an Eschaetor had been appointed, nor could he, by the law of the land, grant or bestow any estates until his own title to the same had been proved by an Inquisition. In the 32nd year of the reign of Henry the 8th (1540) a court of wards and liveries was instituted to superintend and regulate these Inquisitions. This was abolished in the reign of Charles the 2nd, together with the tenures upon which it was found.

In the feudal times, or days of chivalry (as we love to call them), lands were held either by knightly, military, or menial service ; or else by a payment of rent in silver coin, or white rent as it was termed. Tenants of the latter class were called Socmen, and were spoken of as holding their lands in socage ; but this was not in all cases an annual, but a *quit* rent, by which the socman shewed his subjection to the king, but was in other respects in the position of a freeholder. Edward the 1st established a law by which each possessor of 20 acres of land was compelled to take out patents of knighthood, bear a shield of arms, and furnish his quota of men for military service as often as needed. In later times, this law only applied to the possessors of 40 acres, but as it often proved an expensive ceremony to the landowner, and in times of peace was superfluous, the law was abolished, and a light tax substituted by Edward the 6th in the first year of his reign.

Besides that of Eschaetor, another important magisterial office was that of Receiver of the king's rents, revenues, fines, forfeitures, and assessments. And in *both appointments* we find

the Urswicks of Yorkshire on several occasions after the period at which we again take up their history, viz., at the death of Adam de Urswick. By whose "Inquisition taken at "Kyrkeby in Kendal"* it is shewn that "upon his death he "was seized in his demesne as of fee of a tenement in "Stirkeland Ketel which he held of the king *in capite*, value "in all issues 30s.," and that he "died on the Tuesday "following the feast of St. Michael, viz., 25th September, and "that Robert de Ursewykk was his son and next heir, and "aged 25 years and more."

THOMAS URSWICK, coeval with, and probably a brother of Adam now deceased, is described† as having formed one of the suite of Wm. de Bohun, shortly after he was made Earl of Northampton by King Edward the 3rd, viz., on the 3rd of October, 1337, on which occasion an expedition was formed under the Earl's command to try conditions with Philip of France, which, so far as any pacific arrangements were concerned, proved unavailing, for warlike measures were speedily adopted between the two countries; the Earl's retinue consisted of John Fitzwalter and 68 others, viz., nobles, knights, and gentlemen, among whom we find the names of Thomas de Urswick and Matthew de Redman contiguously entered on the list.

On the 23rd of May, in the following year, 1338, Earl

* Record Office, Chancery Inq. p.m. 35, E. III., Part 2, No. 88, taken on the Saturday before the feast of St. Thos. the Apostle (*i.e.*, 22 Dec.) in the year 1361.

† See Rymer's *Fœdera*.

Bohun being again despatched across the sea in the king's service, THOMAS was again one of 74 who accompanied him.


In 1342, our Edward the 3rd having in the interim assumed the title of King of France, the Earl was in command of a fleet to convey reinforcements to Brittany, and in February of that year THOMAS URSWICK had several commissions with Walter Derleston, Roger Power, and Walter de Betell, to provide ships for the undertaking, to be in readiness to sail from Orwell (Ipswich Water or Harwich Harbour) on the 27th of March; and in the same year he had to convey 40 ships laden with wine from Great Yarmouth to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, to be safely bestowed and strongly fortified there by order of the king.

That is all we are able to gather of this Thomas Urswick, though it is undoubtedly but a small sample of his knightly services, and we return to Robert, son of Adam, and heir to his estates.



V.

Robert de Urswick (Son of Adam), Knight of Parliament and
Lord of Uprawcliffe.

S it will be presently seen that according to the *Post-mortem* Inquisitions of this Robert, and also of his son, they each had a wife Joan or Johanna, and as further we have no authority for disputing the authenticity of Mr. Dodsworth's pedigree, it becomes evident that there were at least two Robert Urswicks living at the same time in each of these two successive generations.

Speaking then of the first of these two generations, it is useless to attempt to determine whether Sir Robert of Uprawcliffe was really the Knight of Parliament—or his first cousin Robert—supposing, in fact, that Adam and his brother Thomas had each a son Robert, which name was handed down in both branches. The pedigree portion of the family refers to the estate of Uprawcliffe, and in the next descent to that of Badsworth; other members of the family appear to have held sundry knightly and magisterial offices, such as Eschætors, Receivers, Constables of Bowland Forest, etc.

Sir Robert Urswick obtained the Manor of Upper Raw-

cliffe or Uprawcliffe, by marriage with Helen, daughter of Sir William Southworth (47 E. III., 1373), who had inherited it from the Couplands, and it remained with the Urswicks until two generations later, when it passed by marriage to the Kirkbys of Kirkby. Rawcliffe, as it is now called, is situated on the north side of the river Wyre, in the same township as the village of St. Michaels.

Sir Robert also held, by power of attorney from Margaret, daughter of Wm. de Hornby (afterwards married to his son Robert), an estate called Asthorpe, or East Thorpe, in Lincoln (1382). He was also guardian (1397) of Joan, daughter of Roger Hertforth of Badsworth (who afterwards married his other son Thomas).

There is a marriage recorded between a Robert Urswick and Ellen, daughter of Richd. Radclyffe, dated 12th July, 18 Ric. II.* (1394), but this probably refers to the other Robert of same period, who filled various offices in company with his brother Walter and one of the Radclyffs, as foresters of Bowland.

Sir ROBERT URSWICK, as Knight of the Shire, was an instance of long and continuous service, almost unexampled, as the following parliamentary returns for the county of Lancaster, sending two members at each session, will show :—

* *Richd. the 2nd.* His first wife, Anne, daughter of Chas. IV., King of Bohemia, was an ardent disciple of Wickliffe. After her death many Bohemian students visited Oxford, and many English visited Prague University. Among the Bohemians came Jerome Faulfisch, who, like John Huss, was a vigorous preacher of the Lollard doctrines.

" At Westminster," 24th April, 1379, Nicholas de Haryngton and Robert de URCEWYK.

16th January, 1380, name of first Knight illegible, and Thos. de SOTHEWORTH, Robert Urswick's brother-in-law.

5th November, 1380, Do. and Do.

16th September, 1381, prorogued to 3rd November, William de Atherton and ROBERTUS DE URCEWYK.

6th October, 1382, Johannes Assheton and ROBERTUS URSEWYK.

26th October, 1383, WALTERUS URSEWYK is here named in the place of Robert ; Willielmus Tunstall is the other Knight.

20th October, 1385, ROBERTUS URSWYK and Thomas de Radcliffe.

10th November, 1386, Nicholas de Haveryngton or Haryngton and another.

12th November, 1390, ROBERTUS DE URSEWYK and Johannes de Croft.

3rd November, 1391, ROBERTUS DE URSWYK and Robertus de Worbesley.

20th January, 1393, ROBERTUS DE URSEWYK and Rodulphus de Ipré.

27th January, 1394, ROBERTUS DE URSWYK and Thomas Gerard.

27th January, 1395, ROBERTUS DE URSWYK and Thomas de Radeclif.

22nd January, 1397, ROBERTUS DE URSWYK and Ricardus Molineux.

17th September, 1397, prorogued to 27th January, 1398, at Shrewsbury, [name illegible] and Adulphus de Radecluf.
6th October, 1399, ROBERTUS DE URSWYK and Henricus de Hoghton.

Lastly, 27th October, 1400 (at York), and prorogued to 20th January, 1401 (at Westminster), ROBERTUS DE URSWYK and Nicholas de Atherton.

ROBERT had a sister ALICE, who married a Mr. John Sparrow, who had large possessions in Dorset and Somerset, which eventually came to his (Robert's) son through failure of male issue in the Sparrow family.

If the *post-mortem* Inquisition which here follows *does* refer to the above Robert, Knight of Parliament, it follows that he must have twice married ; and his second wife was named JOAN, and he must have almost died in harness ; for we find him sitting in the House in January, 1401 ; and dying in September of same year, aged 66.

Chancery Inq. p.m. 4, Henry IV., No. 15.

(Record Office, Fetter Lane, London.)

Inquisition taken at Allerton on Friday, the feast of St. Bartholomew, 4 Henry IV. (Allerton, Yorkshire, 24th August, 1402).

The Jury say that Robert Urswik, Chivaler, held at the time of his death, conjointly with Joan, his wife, 20 marks annual rent, arising from the Wapentake of Langbergh, &c., by the gift of Thomas Longley, Clerk. To have etc. to the said Robert and Joan and the heirs of their bodies, and in default of issue to the right heirs of Robert for ever. The said rent is held of the King by Knight's service : Robert died on Wednesday before the feast of St. Michael ; Robert de Urswyk is his son and next heir, and is aged 30 years and more.



VI.

Walter de Urswyk of Catterick in Richmondshire.

BEFORE treating of Robert Urswyk, aged 30 years and upwards at his father's death in 1401, his uncle Walter, although not heir to any great estate, so far as appears, yet making his mark in history as a brave soldier, claims our attention.

As a youthful squire he was engaged by "John of Gaunt, time-honour'd Lancaster," to attend him on his Spanish Expedition, undertaken to replace on the throne of Castile the tyrant Pedro, in the room of the people's favourite Trastamare, and if we seek for the motive by which so brave a man, the supporter of the persecuted Wickliffe, and the patron of our poet Chaucer, could be moved to apparently so unworthy an enterprise, we find our answer in the fact that the Duke speedily after his victories, secured the hand of

Don Pedro's daughter,* and thus obtained for himself the kingdom of Castile.

This expedition resulted in the battle of Najara, fought in the year 1367, by an army of 30,000 men under the Duke of Lancaster, called John of Gant, or Gaunt,† and Edward the Black Prince, and a force of 100,000 led by Henry of Trastamare, and which ended in a complete victory for the English. Don Pedro had been forced from the throne by the aid of King Charles the 5th of France, who was not actuated by any particular sympathy for the troubles of the Castilians, but was desirous of finding employment for a great multitude of mercenary troops, or free companies, who were committing great depredations in his country.

WALTER DE URSWYK did such signal service at the battle of Najara,‡ that he there earned his silver spurs, and was knighted on the field, and on his return to his native land, had a further and more substantial reward for his bravery in

* Constance, daughter of Don Pedro, king of Leon and Castile, was John o' Gaunt's 2nd wife, she died 1393. His first wife was Blanch, sister of Matilda, duchess of Bavaria, she died in 1369. John o' Gaunt died in 1399, aged 63, *i.e.*, February, 1399.

† Or Ghent. Among the knights with the Duke of Lancaster are named Lord Wm. Beauchamp, Sir Ralph Camoires, Sir Walter Urswick, Sir Robt. Someri, Sir John Grandesson, Sir John Draper, &c., and 200 knights and squires in all, see Barnes' Hist. of Edw. the III., folios 705 to 711, for a full description of the battle.

‡ This battle was fought between Najara and Navaret in the province of Rioja, in old Castile, on Saturday, the 3rd of April, 1367. Vast numbers trying to escape from the Duke's forces, were drowned in the Great River, which ran red with the blood of the slain.

the form of a grant from the Duke. The deed, translated from the quaint Norman French of the period, runs thus:—

“John, son of the noble King of England, Duke of Lancaster, &c., &c., to all whom these letters may concern, greeting! Know you that for the good and friendly service which our well-beloved Master Walter de Urswick has done us in our expedition to Spain, and for others he will render in time to come, and also to enable him the better to maintain the order of knight-hood which he took of us on the day of the battle of Najara, we have given and granted to him for the term of his life £40 a year, to be taken, year by year, in round sums, at the hands of our general Receiver for the time being out of the issues of our Manors of Katterick and Forcet, in our county of Richmond.”

Here follows a legal formula qualifying Sir Walter to distrain upon the said manors for his annuity, in the event of at any time the said issues (or rents) being two months in arrears. Now as we find in the next generation a Robert and Thomas Urswick, occupying the position of receivers of rents for the Duke of Lancaster in the Forest of Bowland (and this was in the years 1422 and 1423), it is exceedingly probable that in Sir Walter's time his brother Robert held this office of receiver for the Duke, and thus his brother Walter's interests would be well secured. The deed of grant to Sir Walter terminates as follows:—

“In testimony of above we have affixed our letters patent, sealed with our private seal. Given at our Castle of *Hertford* this 22nd day of November in the 41st year of the reign of our respected sire and parent the King.”

In the year 1371 Sir Walter was made Constable of Richmond Castle, and although on the 25th of June, 1372, John,

Duke of Lancaster, and now King of Castile, surrendered the Earldom of Richmond to his father the King, we have no reason to suppose that Sir Walter's interests suffered thereby. He was then guardian of the forest of Bowland, or the *New Forest*, as it is elsewhere termed, and his companion in office was Thomas William Parker, of Cheshunt; and although this gentleman held a second position at that period, the names of the Parkers of Cheshunt, Browsholm,* &c., have been, as Foresters of Bowland, handed down to posterity, while that of Urswick has been buried in oblivion.

The character of the latter family seems to have been a disposition to disregard or retire from the fruits of their industry; and obscurity, if heartily desired, is easily earned.

On the 15th of September, 1374, Sir WAUTER de Urswyke is instructed "to deliver as much venison to the gentry of the neighbourhood as could be conveniently spared"; and this suggests the necessity of extreme caution on the part of Sir Walter as to what the requirements of Royalty might prove to be. (Whitaker's *Cliithere*, III. 344, 355).

On the 15th of April, 1380, being then Master Forester of Blackburnshire, he is appointed chief warden of the chases of *Trawden*, *Pendle*, *Rossendel*, *Tottington*, and *Hoddlesdon*.

By a warrant dated 1st of April, 1382, *Sir Walter* has to deliver 6 oaks fit for building, and in the year 1383 there is a commission to *Walter* and Robert URSWIC, Thomas Redcliffe, and other magistrates, to enquire into certain offences and disturbances committed within the forests of Bowland, Pendle, Rossendel, Trawden, and Tottington.

* Arms a chevron between 3 bucks' heads cabossed. The arms of "Needham," quartered with "Thos. Urswick," the Recorder, etc., were a bend engrailed between 2 bucks' heads cabossed, showing an association between the families with regard to their device.

On the 6th of March, 1386, John of Gaunt, King of Castile, made another expedition into Spain, and Sir Walter de Urswyk's name occurs, with 247 other knights and gentlemen, who, under the conduct of John Chatterton, John Brown of Latham, Sir Hugh de Despenses, and Sir Philip Okore, formed his retinue on that occasion.

These are the only records which appear to be extant of the "sundry offices"* held by Sir Walter de Urswick; they are taken from Rymer's *Foedera*, and Whitaker's *Histories of Whalley and Richmondshire*. Probably the reward which the youthful Walter, just returned from the wars as a "conquering hero," most valued was the hand of the fair daughter of Lord Scrope of Masham.

As to the date of Walter's death we fail to find any note, but a handsome monument in the form of a recumbent statue of a knight in armour was erected to his memory, and stood within an arch in the south aisle of Katterick Church, which was rebuilt in 1412. If Sir Walter survived this period, he would probably be about 75 years of age, otherwise his tomb was removed from the old building.

In another part of the church, viz., on a window of the chancel, are also depicted the arms of Urswick, "3 lozenges on a bend,"† with another shield, viz., "per fesse gules and

* "*Diversa officia*." See *Calendarium Rotulorum Patentium*, British Museum Library.

† Also a crest, viz., "A Ram's head, barry of six." In later years we find the Urswick's bearing the "Percy" or "Northumberland" crest of a "Lion statant" on a "cap of maintenance," indicating that they were followers of that House.

argent, in chief a demi lion rampant, in base a rose counter-changed." Also on another shield the same arms impaling that of the Burgh* family. Likewise the inscription, *Super tumulum cujusdam equitis armati Urrswic*, which intimates that below this chancel window was the original position of Urrswick's tomb, and that on the chancel being at some period restored or rebuilt, it was removed to its present one in the south aisle. This is further suggested by the masonry surrounding the tomb, which is more modern in appearance, as if belonging to the 15th century. It bears the arms of Urrswick impaling Scrope, besides those shields separately. The other unknown shield, and that of De Burgh, breathe tales of knightly alliances of which we get no record; so little was known, south of the Don, of this family of Urrswick that a writer in *The Gentleman's Magazine* (volume 75, part 2, page 705), attempting to describe the tomb, makes a guess at five different family names to account for "the lozenges on a bend," but it is needless to add, not the right one. We are indebted to the late Rev. James Raine, Canon of York, for the most graphic description extant.

Dilating upon the subject of Bowland Forest, he speaks of it as "an immense tract of wild, unenclosed moorland, stretching from the northern bank of the Swale, a mile or two above Richmond, by Barningham Bowes, and Stainmore to the Tees, and extending westward through Arkengarthdale to the boundaries of Richmondshire in that direction."

* Arms of Burgh: "Argent, on a saltire sable, 5 swans of the field."



Walter Warwick monument
Katherine Church
York

W. Warwick

" Here, in the brief intervals of peace, and at appointed times and places, would the population of the district meet, to hunt the wolf, the wild boar, and the stag, in the suite of their Lord. Foxes and hares might be roused from their hiding places during the chase, but such small deer were unheeded by the Earl* and his hounds: *they* followed nobler game; and fancy can picture the stirring of a wolf from her cave within the old British hold beneath Applegarth rock, and the echoing of hound and horn mingled with the mixed cries of assembled hundreds for many a long mile, until he was fairly hunted down within the ruined briar-clad walls of Stainmore."

Canon Raine favours us in his book with a sketch of Urswick's tomb, an etching of which is here presented.

Thus much for our old ancestor, Sir Walter; we know not what family he had, or if he had *any*. The Robert, who is evidently "one too many" for Dodsworth, may have been his son, but throwing off idle conjectures, we pass to Robert, son of Robert.

* John of Gaunt, *Earl* of Richmond, *Duke* of Lancaster.





VII.

Robert Erstwick, of Aprawcliffe and of Badsworth, son of
Robert, of Aprawcliffe.

THE scraps of history which we cull from the works of Baines and Whitaker, the evidence of one (and one only) *post-mortem* Inquisition, and the pedigree, as set forth by Dodsworth, are very conflicting with regard to this Robert, son of Robert. The confusion has been caused by a desire to form a *compact* pedigree, and records which refer to two, if not more, individuals, have been concentrated upon one.

Preferring doubt, to a reckless setting aside of any member of the family of whom we find any mention, for the reason that his identity presents a difficulty, let us place in order as to date, what we gather of these Roberts, co-existent and co-eval as they were, and leave their exact relationship to each other for wiser heads to determine. Such was the

attachment to a Christian name among old Saxon families, that it was not an unfrequent custom to name two sons after their father, in order to insure so far as possible (in the event of the decease of one) the descent of an hereditary estate to one who bore it. It seems to have met with very partial success, however, and must cause great confusion in tracing genealogies.

Sir ROBERT URSWICK of Uprawcliff obtained an additional estate of a moiety of Uprawcliff by marriage with Margaret, daughter of Sir Wm. de Hornby of Uprawcliffe, but it does not clearly appear by what arrangement he also held a portion of the Badsworth estate, which belonged to his brother. The fact that Robert and Thomas each held a moiety of Badsworth, was stated by William Trigott, bailiff of the honor of Pontefract.

Robert and his wife, Margaret, obtained either by purchase of, or by an exchange with, Wm. Wike of York and Beatrice his wife, ten bovates* of land in Willitoft and Spaldington. This was in the year 1391 or 1392. Welightoft (as we have it in the old spelling) and Spaldington were two contiguous estates, 4 or 5 miles distant from Howden, East Riding of Yorkshire. The Vavasours had halls in both, so late as Charles the 1st; so probably they inherited them with other lands from the Urswicks.

In 1401 we find Sir Robert and Sir Thomas both residing on their estates at Badsworth.

* About 200 acres or more; historians differ as to the bovate.

In 1415 Sir Robert is appointed High Sheriff of the county of Lancaster, and again in 1418 he is re-appointed, giving evidence that *this* Sir Robert came scathless from the battle-field, for in 1415, the first year of his appointment, the famous battle of Agincourt was fought. For it Sir Robert Urawick, in his capacity of Sheriff, had to provide 500 archers; so he covenanted with nine other knights, each to have 50 under his command, while he, Robert, led 50 himself. Among, or rather, we should say, chief of, his fellow-leaders were, his brother Thomas, Sir John Southworth, Sir James Haryngton, John de Stanley, Richard de Kighley, and Thos. Staunton; the latter appears to have aided him in his official as well as his military capacity as sub-sheriff, and as to his other comrades we can but observe the intimate connexion existing between them and his own family.—

Sir John Southworth was either his uncle or, more likely, his first cousin, his mother being Ellen Southworth, as before shewn.—Sir James, brother of “Sir William Haryngton, the Standard Bearer,” married Sir John Southworth’s niece Ellen, viz., the daughter of his brother Thomas.—Of the noble family of Stanley, to whom John de Stanley belonged, we will speak hereafter; the Haryngtons and the Stanleys were friendly then, for the time had not arrived when the former, by violently espousing a failing cause, should give the latter a pretext for usurping with royal connivance their confiscated property.—Richard de Kighley was apparently a brother of Sir Gilbert de Kighley, who, after the death of our Robert Urawick, married his widow Margaret. This Margaret de Hornby* must have been young when Robert “took her to wife,” for we find that a third time she becomes a widow, and marries Alexander, second son of Roger de Leeds.

* Four times married: 1st to Sir Wm. Haryngton, 2nd to Sir Robt. Urawick, 3rd to Sir Rich. de Kighley, 4th to Alex. de Leeds.

The names of the other four knights with whom Sir Robert contracted or covenanted to supply the 500 archers, we have not yet discovered.

We must now leave this "Robert, son of Robert," and shew by a *post-mortem* Inquisition how by the death of Mr. John Sparrow, his kinsman Robert, son of Robert de Urawcliff, to whom the said Inquisition refers, and who consequently cannot be the same whom we have been describing, "did inherit sundry estates in Dorset and Somerset"; and it further states that he, Robert, dying without issue on the 3rd November, 1420, his brother Thomas became heir to the said estates.

The Inquisition for the Dorset estate is taken at Bridport, and is dated a few days before the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist in 1421; it sets forth that the Jury assembled, viz., Wm. Serle, Lawrence Elleworth, Henry Colemour, Wm. atte Naysh, Alex. Hasard, Richard Crowche, John Hanekokkes, John atte Hyde, Nicholas Gele, John Shawe, Robert Godewyne, and Thomas Richeman, declared upon their oath that the said Robert Urawcliff, when he died, held *no* lands in Dorset, but that John Sparrow, his kinsman, who deceased before him, had numerous small estates, to which the said Robert *was* heir, and to prove his rights, or rather the rights of his brother Thomas, they are there assembled. First they state, that John Sparrow had held of the king in free burgage* a curtilage and a toft in the town of Shafton [*i.e.*, Shaftesbury], 3 messuages, 3 cottages, and 4 acres of land in Sherborne and Vynland, an acre of meadow in Yetminster, 2 messuages and 16½ acres of land at a place called Hywysh, near Yetminster, held of different lords, and variously underlet. Also, it

* "Free burgage" held by an established rent, and not by menial service. "Curtilage," courtyard or land adjoining a dwelling. "Toft," waste plot where a dwelling has stood.

was determined by a Jury, consisting of John Goodman, John Gove, John Rosch, Richard Bagot, Adam Palmer, John Mede, Richard Bole, Wm. Hiberd, and Rich. Matthew, who a few days after the feast of St. Barnabas again met at Chard, that the said John Sparrow had held in the county of Somerset, viz., 1 toft and 4 acres in some place which is illegible, 2 messuages and a dovecote in Milborneport, 12 messuages and 3 acres in Lamport,* 1 messuage and 2 acres in Kingston and Yeovil, besides 5 messuages in Yeovil, 6 messuages in Stoford,† 26 acres in Berwick, a messuage and 10 acres in Alvington, 5 messuages and a hundred and‡ acres in Hardington, 2 messuages and 51 acres in North Perret, and 1 messuage and 14 acres in‡

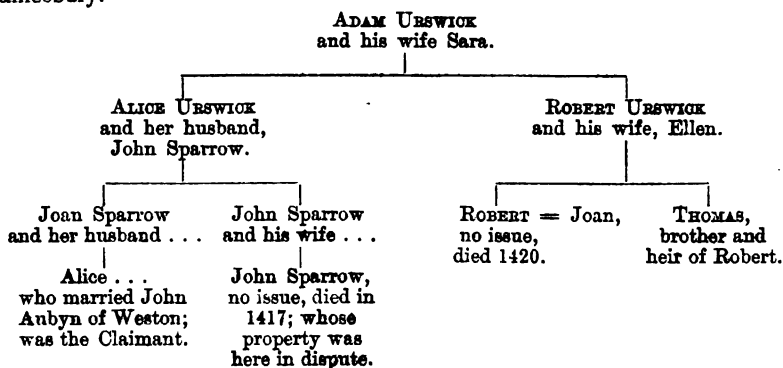
It appears that ROBERT URSWICK having inherited all these properties in the two counties, bestowed them upon one John Lever, whether by sale, or lease, or only in trust, we cannot tell, but this John Lever, for some cause, relinquished his hold of them, and they were seized by one John Stourton on the 2nd of June, 1418; in the words of the original document, "he had intruded himself" upon these houses and lands, and there is little doubt that it was a case of disputed inheritance; that John Stourton was acting in behalf of the kinsfolk of the late John Sparrow; and that the Juries which now assembled had for their object the protection of the rights, real or supposed, of THOMAS URSWICK, as heir of his brother Robert, now deceased.

By an Inquisition taken on the death of John Sparrow in 1417, a Jury had determined that one Alice Aubyn was the rightful heiress; in the following year, 1418, another was held at Bolton in Lancashire, when ROBERT URSWICK was

* Langport. † Stoford was in the hundred of Cumington. ‡ Illegible.

declared to be the rightful heir;* but how the matter was finally settled, we have no means of forming a conjecture. We are not informed as to Alice Aubyn's maiden name, but it was *not* Sparrow, so it is unimportant; this is the relative position of the Urswicks and the Sparrows, with regard to the marriage already spoken of between Adam Urswick's daughter, Alice, and the former John Sparrow, which will enable the reader to form his own conjectures.

The "*tenants in chief*" of these estates were first the "King," then Thos. de Lancaster, Duke of Clarence, Thos. de Beaufort, Duke of Exeter, Thos. de Langley, Bishop of Durham, John, Duke of Bedford, and Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester. The "*tenants in fee*" were Robert and Thos. Urswick, and with respect to the estates in "Dorset," also *John*, son of *John de Southworth*, was a joint heir, viz., also a tenant in fee, or *copyholder*. See below, Southworth of Sanlesbury.



And now to return to the other Robert, son of Robert, who wedded Margaret de Hornby, and was holding Uprawcliffe and part of Badsworth. According to Dodsworth, he had

* See Towneley's *Abstracts of Lancashire Inquisitions*.

a son, John, but the date shews this to be erroneous, viz., "Richard the 2nd," for these were his grandfather's days; and this John, who married in Henry the 4th's reign Constance, the daughter and heiress of Edward Banaster, must have been a brother or a cousin, and not a son, of the Robert of whom we are now speaking. This John is said to have died without issue.

It seems, however, that Robert had five daughters, viz., Johanna, Helen, Elizabeth, Margaret, and Katherine.

These were co-heiresses of the Uprawcliffe estate.

Johanna married John, 4th son of Richard Kirkby, of Kirkby Ireleth, and

Helen married another brother, viz., Roger de Kirkby, and by these combinations the whole of the estate of Uprawcliffe, so far as the Urswicks had been possessors, passed into the family of Kirkby; of the two daughters,

Elizabeth and *Margaret*, no records have come to light, but in all probability;

Katherine was the dame who in after-years was in trouble about her property in Garstang,* of which "Thomas Urswick, Chief-Baron of the Exchequer," had been trustee, and was constrained to appeal to the Lord Chancellor for the recovery of her title deeds after the decease of the said "Thomas Urswick."

* See Suit of Dame Katherine Urswick, mentioned below.

VIII.

Sir Thomas Urswick of Badsworth.

SIR THOMAS URSWICK, heir of his brother Robert's moiety of Badsworth, in addition to his own, which he obtained by marriage with Johanna Hertforth, daughter and heiress of Roger Hertforth of Badsworth, was Knight of Parliament in 1422, according to Dodsworth, who also shews that at an earlier date, viz., 1417, he filled the office of Justice of the Peace. Wilson's pedigree in Leeds library represents him as Knight of Parliament in 1441, but that is somewhat doubtful, although he was still living and holding his estate of Badsworth at that time. We have no entry of the date of his marriage with Johanna Hertforth.

Two of the offspring of that union were *Robert* and *Ellen*. *Robert** married Katherine, daughter of Sir Thomas Haryngton, of Brierley, and *Ellen* was first wedded to Sir Richard Molineux, son and heir of Sir William, who was son and heir of Sir John Molineux, living in the reign of Edward the 3rd. By Sir Richard, Ellen had two sons and three daughters, and becoming a widow in the year 1397, was afterwards married

* Robert Urswick of Badsworth, High Sheriff, 1466.

to Sir James Haryngton, a younger brother of Sir Thomas of Brierley. On the occasion of this her second marriage Ellen seems to have been well dowered, for we find the following "Fine," dated the year 1406, "Between Sir James de Haryngton, *Plaintiff* (which in these documents signifies the party who either purchases or accepts the property as a gift), and Thomas de Urswick with Johanna his wife, *Deforciants* (i.e., vendors or, in this case, grantors of the same), of messuages and lands in Wessington and Barningham, and also of a moiety of the Badsworth estate, known as Hertforth's."

The only issue of this second marriage, of which we have any note, was Richard Haryngton, who afterwards married Mabel Bradeshage, or Bradshaw, of Bradeschag, of whom we will treat when speaking of the rest of the Haryngton family. In a record of a Deed connected with the Bradeschag estate, probably a marriage settlement, an Edward Urswick is one of the witnesses. But to return to old Sir Thomas, of Badsworth (and we say old advisedly, for although no *post-mortem* Inquisition seems to be extant to determine the length of his life, he was upwards of 60 in 1441). When receiver of rents for the Duchy of Lancaster in the forest of Bowland, an office which he had held conjointly with his brother during his lifetime, and now some two years after Robert's death, we find him * still fulfilling these functions, for in 1423 we have a note that, as receiver of Clitheroe, he has to

* Whitaker's "History of Whalley."

expend the sum of £6 17s. 11d. on repairs and improvements in the park of Ightenhill,* and £1 10s. 4d. for fences and palings.

In 1424,† on the occasion of a dispute arising between the Abbot of Furness and Sir Richard Kirkby concerning some lands in Angerton Moss, Sir THOMAS URSWICK was one of a party of knights and gentlemen assembled at the Abbey to arbitrate in the matter. Angerton Moss had been originally granted by the Lancaster family to the Abbots and Monastery, but the Haryngtons, Kirkbys, and others who had held portions of it, and been themselves benefactors, still retained an interest in the estate, and possibly the Lord Abbot (Robert) may have been a little too grasping in his claims. Sir Thomas would be likely to favour the views of Sir Richard Kirkby, as the father of the two gentlemen who had married his nieces Johanna and Helen in 1410 and 1412.

On the death of Sir Thomas, his son Robert became heir of Badsworth.

* Ightenhill is separated from the forest of Pendle by the Calder, and is one of the demesnes of Clitheroe Castle; a soft and gentle swell of ground, rising from a curvature of the river, not to any considerable height, as its name might lead one to suppose, yet commanding some very pleasing views to the north and west. Within this park was formerly a very ancient manor-house, belonging to the Lacies, and dating its existence as early as 1176. The tradition is, that the house was abandoned by the family on account of the untimely death of the heirs of Henry de Lacy of Pontefract Castle. Edmund, the eldest son, perished in his childhood by falling down a well at Denbigh Castle, and John, being heir successive, while yet a boy, running on a turret of Pontefract Castle in the year 1282, fell, and was killed.

† Beck's *Annales Furnesienses*.

IX.

Urswicks of Lincolnshire, Kent, and London.

IN Berry's *Dictionary of Arms*, we find URSWYKE or URSWEEK of Lincoln. We gain no tidings of them beyond the fact already stated, viz., that a Robert Urswick held by power of attorney the estate of Asthorpe, in that county : and, as we do not find them in histories of Lincolnshire, we come to the conclusion that they were but temporary residents there, and that from them were in all probability descended the comparatively obscure branch, which we find in Kent, and subsequently in London, not becoming totally extinct until the period of the Commonwealth.

At the time of which we have been speaking with respect to Sir Thomas of Badsworth, there was a daughter of one of these families of whose parentage we can gain no knowledge, her father's Christian name being lost ; but we have a record that " Emma de Urswick " married in the reign of Henry the 5th. (or thereabouts ; at all events, not earlier)

a Mr. Ancher, of a Kentish family ; and this Emma Urswick bore, either by grant or assumption (instead of her old paternal shield) the arms of Crisp of Thanet, viz., " Ermine, a fess checky, argent and sable." We are led to suppose that she was probably an orphan, and an adopted daughter of Squire Crisp of Thanet, that Mr. Ancher was a kinsman of Mr. Crisp, and the latter having no heirs, excepting his adopted daughter " Emma de Urswick," the family shield became attached to her dower. Mr. Ancher and his wife Emma had issue one daughter, who married a Mr. Draper ; they had a son Thomas Draper, of Flintham, Nottinghamshire, whose grandson was Sir Christopher Draper, a member of the Ironmongers' Company, and Lord Mayor of London in 1567. This Sir Christopher Draper bore on his escutcheon two shields of arms for Draper, one for Ancher, and one, viz., the arms already described, for Urswick. Again, we find that one of the female descendants of Sir Christopher Draper, having married into the family of Sir Edward Bowyer Smijth, of Hill Hall, Essex, Bart., Sir Edward bore, among 70 quarterings, the same shield for Urswick. This blind adherence to an adopted emblazonment, having no historical association with the Urswick family, seems another instance of the obscurity of their history.

By an old document* preserved in the British Museum, it is shewn that one WILLIAM URSEWYK held conjointly with Wm. Wyman, Esq., and Geoffrey Withyn, certain lands in

* Seal xxxii. 51.

Modyngham and elsewhere in the parish of Chiselhurst, Kent, which were conveyed to them by Agnes, wife of Thos. Caveler, Esq., of Hobury. This seal, as it is termed, bears the date 12th November, I. Henry VI., *i.e.*, 1422.

Although their professional career drew Sir Thomas Urswick, the Recorder, and the more famous Dean Christopher, to the Metropolis, we should not be well-advised in placing either of these in the category of the distinct branch above named, their records showing obviously their connexion and association with the Uprawcliffe and Badsworth family; there was, however, in the reign of Henry the 7th, one Nicholas Urswick, appointed Rector of St. Nicolas Acon, upon the resignation of Thos. Chancellor, on the 19th December, 1497, which living he held until his death, and was succeeded on the 4th of April, 1506, by John Dowman.* This Church has been for some years demolished, but the burial ground still remains on the west side of Nicholas Lane, Lombard Street. When only a few years since another of our time-honoured places of worship was doomed to destruction, the well-preserved registers of St. Dionis Backchurch, Lime Street, were carefully copied by Mr. Joseph Eades, who has given the following entries, *viz.*, The burial of Chrystian Urswick, who died the 26th of June, 1540; the marriage of Thomas Urswick to Margaret

* Newcourt's *Repertorium*, I. 505. Nicholas Urswick also, from the 9th May, 1502, until his death in 1506, held the Rectory of Hockwold, near Brandon in Norfolk. See Blomefield's *History of Norfolk*.

Halyday* on the 4th October, 1540, and the burial of Thos. Urrswick, 13th October, 1549.

The last and only remaining record which we have succeeded in discovering of this branch of the old family, and which kept the name in its uncorrupted form, is that of John Urrswick, merchant tailor, who, in the reign of Charles I., brought an action for the recovery of a debt against a Mr. Thomas Tuke.**

X.

The Urrswicks of Badsworth (continued)—Robert, son and heir of Thomas.

SIR ROBERT URSWICK,† of Badsworth, was Sheriff of Lancaster in 1466. He married Katherine, fifth and youngest daughter of Sir Thomas Haryngton,‡ of Brierley, who died of his wounds the day after the battle of Wakefield. Sir Robert had one only daughter, Isabel, who became heiress of her father's estate of Badsworth, and married Sir William Vavasor,§ of Bubwith, and thus the property passed into the family of Vavasor, until Philip

* Barton Haliday, or Holyday, son of a tailor, was born in 1593, in a house opposite Lincoln College, Oxford. He graduated B.A. of Christ Church 1615; in 1618 went to Spain as chaplain to Sir Fr. Stewart; became Archdeacon of Oxford 1626. Approved by the Triers, Cromwell gave him the Rectory of Chilton in Berks, whence he was ejected in 1660 to make way for the old incumbent. For a list of his works, see Wood's *Athenae Oxon.*

** Chancery B. and A., Carl. I. U.U., No. 9 (58), Record Office.

† Robert was one of the executors of Thomas, Baron of Exchequer in 1479.

‡ See Haryngton, below.

§ See Vavasor or Vavasour.

Vavator, a great grandson of Sir William, settled it on his brother-in-law, Thomas Dolman, Esq.*

Mr. Hunter, in his history of South Yorkshire, states that Isabel de Vavator having died without issue, a claim was set up by one of the heirs of her great uncle, Robert, which proved unavailing; this great uncle was Robert of Uprawcliffe and Badsworth already spoken of, but as Mr. Hunter does not give us a reference, we have no means of discovering who this unsuccessful claimant was, whether a son, or daughter, or one more distantly akin. Hunter also says that, prior to this, the Urswicks had found disturbers of their possessions in the persons of Thomas Broket and his wife Dionysia, whose claim was founded on a grant stated to have been made by one Roger Folyfait (a co-heir of one of the Neville family) to Alan Folyfait and his wife Euphemia.

It was alleged that Alan and Euphemia had a son, John; that John had a sister, Emosia, who was his heiress; that Emosia had a son and heir, William; and that the plaintiff Dionysia was daughter and heiress of the said William. The issue of the action appears, however, for that time to have been in favour of the Urswicks. Isabel de Vavator, having no family, devoted a portion of her wealth to the foundation

* Robert Dolman, of Badsworth, gentleman, was among the list of adherents to the King in the time of the Civil Wars, and by an Act passed in 1652, his estates were sold, and Col. Bright, of Carbrook, Sheffield, an officer in the Parliament army, became the purchaser. He abandoned his hereditary seat of Carbrook, settled at Badsworth, was made a baronet soon after the Restoration, died and was buried at Badsworth the year of the Revolution.

of a chantry in the Church of Badsworth. The Charter is preserved in the Record Office; it is written in Latin, and for a translation of it we are indebted to the late John Robert Daniel Tyssen, Esq.

Being a curiosity in its way, we give a copy of the deed. Mr. Hunter has only favoured us with an abridgement, but he introduces it with the following remarks on Badsworth Church: "There has unfortunately been a time when this Church was doomed to be *renovated*, and no eye upon the *renovation* which was familiar with the forms of these venerable edifices: the porch was entirely removed; the side windows of the nave through which light was admitted over the north and south aisles, were blocked up, and other alterations were made: in its original state it must have been a favourable specimen of the village church of what we may call the second order, without transepts but with side aisles, and a wide east window. The present edifice probably belongs to the age of Edward the 3rd, and must have taken the place of a much older Saxon church, with which it has nothing in common." The windows still exhibit, in addition to the arms of Swillington, Balderston, &c., those of Urswick and Hertforth.* "In Dodsworth's time there was also in a north window the arms of Urswick impaling Hertforth, also Urswick impaling Haryngton, and Vavasor impaling Urswick." "There were also the figures

* Hertforth, "argent, a lion rampant," an extinct line, but we find the Talbots of Bashall bore "gules, a lion rampant."

of a knight in armour having the arms of Vavasor on his breast, and of a lady having the arms of Vavasor impaling Urrswick, and on Mr. Dolman's stall there were also the arms of Vavasor impaling Urrswick, Vavasor impaling Gascoign, and Urrswick impaling Haryngton." "These were part of the preparation made for one of those private services called chantries, which were founded in this Church by William Vavasour and *Isabel* his wife."

The foundation charter was enrolled in the Court of the Duchy of Lancaster, and a copy thereof was taken in the 19th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, of which the following is a translation from the Latin:—

Duchy of Lancaster Registers, v. 25/1.—1 September, 1510.

Foundation of Chantry in Church of Badsworth by Isabella, daughter of Robert Urrswick and wife of William Vavasour.

"In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, Amen. To all sons of Holy Mother Church to whom this present writing 'Tripartite indented' shall come.

"CHRISTOPHER URSSWYK, Clerk, late Archdeacon of Richmond, James Haryngton, Clerk, Dean of the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter of York, and Rector of the Parish Church of Baddesworth, Edward Redmayn, Esq., Thomas Langton, Esq., and John Challoner, feoffees [or trustees] of ISABELLA VAVASOUR, late wife of William Vavasour, late of Baddesworth, daughter and heir of ROBERT URSSWYK, Esquire, for performing and fulfilling the last Will of the same Isabella, greeting in the Lord everlasting.

“To the praise and honour of God and of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of all Saints, and that Divine worship especially in the Parish Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Baddesworth in the diocese of York may be the more augmented and made more famous. Hence it is that we, the aforesaid Christopher Ursswyk, James Haryngton, Edward Redmayn, Thomas Langton, and John Chaloner, according to the tenour, force, form, and effect of the last Will of the aforesaid Isabella, lately made with the assent, and also the Will of the aforesaid William Vavasour,

“Do will and ordain that there be one secular Chaplain, able and fitting, not elsewhere beneficed, to celebrate masses and other Divine services at the Altar of Saint Ann, situate in the North arch in the Parish Church of Baddesworth aforesaid for ever for the souls of the aforesaid William and Isabella, late his wife, and for the souls of ROBERT URSSWYK, Esquire, and KATHERINE his wife, parents of the same Isabella, of THOMAS URSSWYK, Esq., grandfather of the same Isabella, and JOAN, his wife, and also for the souls of all the ancestors, parents, and benefactors of the aforesaid Isabella and of all the faithful departed.

“Also we will and ordain that the said Chaplain and his successors shall celebrate a Mass of *Requiem* once in every week for ever. They shall also say *Placebo* and *Dirige* according to the course and use of the Cathedral Church above said. And likewise that they shall turn themselves to

the people at their first washing in each of their masses and shall say *De profundis*, exhorting the people standing round about devoutly to pray for the souls above named for the sake of charity. Also we will and ordain that the said Chaplain and his successors shall say this collect, *Inclina Domine aurem tuam ad preces nostras*, &c., in each of their masses for the souls above named. And likewise that every year for ever they shall keep the anniversary of the aforesaid Isabella on Tuesday next after the octaves of Easter, on which same day they shall distribute and bestow on the poor of the parish of Baddesworth aforesaid, and also for and about the expenses of the same anniversary decently and honourably to be kept as the custom is, six shillings and eight pence, by the oversight of the Rector of the same Church for the time being.

“Also we will and ordain that the said Chaplain and his successors shall be sufficiently instructed in plain song and grammar, and that on all Lord’s Days and Feast Days they shall personally be present in the choir of the said Church of Baddesworth at the times of matins, masses, vespers, and compline and of other Divine services, vested in their surplices, that they may read and sing as it shall seem to the Rector of the same Church decently and fitting to be expedient, obeying the same Rector and his successors in all lawful and honest things within the same Church for ever. And that they shall not absent themselves from the said Church of Baddesworth beyond the space of one month at one time or at various times to be numbered every year at

the most, and this by no means without the license of the said Rector and his successors under pain of removal from their office aforesaid. Also we will and ordain that the said Chaplain and his successors shall by no means play at dice and other unlawful and prohibited games, except in the twelve days after the feast of the Nativity of our Lord next following. And that they shall by no means frequent taverns and the houses of ale-sellers at an unfitting time; that is, in summer-time from the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary until the feast of the Nativity of the same after ten o'clock in the afternoon, and in winter-time that is to say from the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary until the feast of the Annunciation of the same after nine o'clock in the afternoon, under pain of removal from their office and service aforesaid. Also we will and ordain that the said Chaplain and his successors shall not alienate, pledge, nor remove all the things, books, jewels, and ornaments to the said service appertaining; but shall preserve and make new all such things, books, jewels, and ornaments at their own charges as often and whenever it shall be necessary and opportune. And if the same Chaplain or his successors shall destroy, damage, alienate, or not sufficiently repair and preserve any goods, things, jewels, buildings, lands, or tenements to the said service appertaining, then he shall be removed from and utterly deprived of the said service by the Rector of the Church. . . . Also we will and ordain that Roger Wodde, priest, shall be the first Chaplain.

“As often as it shall happen any persons enfeofed in the said messuages to depart from this life so that there shall not be more than one or two of the same, so often the chaplain shall require them to renew and cause to be enfeofed others of the more noble discreet and able parishioners of Baddesworth to the number of twelve of whom we will and ordain one for ever to be the Rector. And so on infinitely and for ever in future times renewing and new making the feoffments; that so this our present ordinance may obtain the force of perpetual validity.

“We will also and ordain that the aforesaid Chaplain and his successors at their first entry to the service aforesaid and before they shall receive any profit of the said lands and tenements, shall take a corporal oath before the Rector of the Church of Baddesworth aforesaid for the time being, that they shall well and faithfully observe, keep, and perform all and singular the premises howsoever incumbent on them as far as human frailty permits it. And to him who shall keep the premises untouched and inviolate, be perpetual peace, eternal salvation, pardon of sins, and continual perseverance in good works. And let him who shall presume to infringe them, be anathema and excommunicated of Christ and all saints, and let his days be few, unless he choose quickly to repent. In witness of all and singular which things to all and singular the parts of this our present writing, tripartite indented, we have affixed our seals. Dated on the first day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand five

hundred and ten, and in the second year of the reign of King Henry the Eighth after the Conquest of England."

By the above document the three generations of the family of Urrswick who held lands in Badsworth are clearly set forth, and it corroborates that portion of the pedigree drawn by Roger Dodsworth, shewing that the Badsworth line became extinct in the person of Isabel de Vavasor.

It appears that this was not the first instance of the Vavasours having held lands in Badsworth, for in 1312 a *post-mortem* Inquisition of William le Vavasor shewed that he had been in possession of a messuage and 80 acres of land there; but this was a small estate and not to be compared with that which Isabel inherited from her father Robert Urrswick, and which now remained, as already stated, in the possession of the Vavasours for three generations. Isabel must, however, have made some provision in respect to these estates, in favour of her kinsman, CHRISTOPHER, for he speaks in his letter to Lord Darcy of his "Manor of Badsworth."

If the Urrswicks had any further claim upon that estate after this period, it does not distinctly appear. We are only informed that an heir of Isabel's great uncle Robert did make some claim, and failed to substantiate it.

The few junior members of the family of whom we have records, with the exception of Sir Thomas, the Recorder, and Christopher, Archdeacon of Richmond, &c., offer but little that can prove interesting; still, as they may possibly lead to further enlightenment, we shall here carefully detail them.

XI.

Urswicks of Lancashire and Yorkshire, coeval with those
of Badsworth.

DR. MARSHALL'S *Genealogist* informs us that Mr. John Rasby (whose wife was Margaret, daughter of Brian Bamfield, Esq.) appointed in his will (dated at York, 12th November, 1466, and proved on the 6th December following) that he was to be buried in the Church of St. Peter the Apostle, at Kirk Smeton, and that his son, Brian Rasby, and John Hesill, of Kirk Smeton, were to be his executors, and (1) THOMAS URSWICK, *Armiger*,* the supervisor of his will.

This was very probably the Thomas who was afterwards Common Serjeant of London, then Recorder, and finally Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and who was now acting in his legal capacity to which he had been trained, but in which the writer of Foss's *Judges* affirms that he did not attain to much celebrity, being more of a soldier than a lawyer, or something to that effect; let us leave him for the present,

* Armiger, or gentleman qualified to bear arms.

and note that Brian Rasby (by his wife Agnes, daughter of Thomas Morley) had a son, Thomas Rasby, who married a daughter of one Christopher Urswick ;—a careful calculation, and allowing 30 years between each generation where dates fail, will shew this Christopher Urswick to have been one generation earlier than Christopher the Archdeacon of Richmond.

There is an Inquisition after the death of THOMAS URSWICK, of Lancashire, dated 1519 (in which year our Archdeacon Christopher was aged 72), naming "CHRISTOPHER URSWICK, *Clerk.*" We find the connection with the Redman family in both instances, viz., in the will of Rector Urswick, and in the Inquisition here named, the former speaking of his "nephew William Redman," and the latter shewing a similar relationship.

Concerning the Risby or Rasby family, we find that John Risby, Esq., had the presentation of the rectory of Badsworth in the year 1474, and appointed James Banastre as rector. The Haryngtons were then in power, and possibly this John Risby was in some way allied with that family, as we find Thomas Rasby to have been (viz., by marriage) with that of the Urswicks about the time in which this presentation occurred. There can be very little doubt as to the names of Risby and Rasby being identical in that locality, although the Risbys, so spelt, are a Suffolk family. The name has also been corrupted to Rusby. Mr. James Rusby, F.R.H.S., has traced his descent from the old Yorkshire family; he has kindly aided us on several occasions by directing attention to certain manuscripts and records of the Urswicks, which possibly would otherwise have been overlooked.

(2) In the year 1454 being the 33rd year of the reign of Henry the 6th, we have a writ of summons issued by one

THOMAS URSWYK, Esq., and it is impossible to fix his identity with any other Thomas before named. Katharine, then of age, is shewn to be the daughter of Robert, not of Thomas, and a later Katharine, daughter of Thomas, afterwards Recorder, was at this date an infant of some three years.

The document, from the Record Office, runs as follows:—

“York. De Banco Roll. Hilary term, 33 H. VI., m. 257d.

“THOMAS URSWYK, Esquire, and KATHARINE URSWYK, daughter of the said Thomas, by their attorney, appear on the fourth day against Robert Wortlay, of Tankersley in the county aforesaid, Esquire, of a plea that he render to them sixty shillings which he owes them and unjustly detains. And he comes not. And it is commanded to the Sheriff that he do summon him, &c. And the Sheriff now returns that he summoned, &c.

“Judgement: let him be attached, that he be here from the day of Easter in 15 days.”

With regard to this family of WORTLAY or WORTLEY, we learn that when, about the end of the twelfth century, the Flemings founded the Benedictine nunnery of Kirklees, Nicholas, son of Alan de Wortley, was (as a feudal dependant) one of the witnesses to the Charter; and from him descended a long line of Wortleys, the heir of the family always bearing the name of Nicholas, until after the death of Nicholas de Wortley in 1448. Isabel, daughter of Thos. Wortley, married in the year 1471 the heir of John Talbot, of Thornton, a descendant of the Talbots of Bashall.

(3) Although not in chronological order, yet while on the subject of these last Urswicks of the North, we will bring their records to a conclusion by here placing the *post-mortem*

Inquisition of THOMAS URSWICK, of Lancashire (in whose person the male line of that branch appears to have become extinct), before entering upon those of the "Recorder," and the "Rector of Hackney," two men very opposite in character, yet closely akin: the one an astute, though apparently not very learned, lawyer, a man of war from his youth, fond of hard blows, and a determined Yorkist; the other a man of much learning, mild and gentle of mien, yet courageous withal, a careful and subtle diplomatist, a lover and promoter of peace, and a faithful and devoted servant to the Lancastrian cause; and it is noteworthy that in these two men we find again instances, as in Sir Walter, of younger and non-inheriting sons having made the widest mark in history.

Duchy of Lancaster. Inquisition P.M. Vol. 5, No. 17. 1520.

Thomas } Be it remembered that at Lincoln on the 3rd day of April in
 Urwyk. } the 11th year of the reign of King Henry the Eighth, this office
 was delivered into the Chancery of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Inquisition indented taken at Lancaster in the county of Lancaster on the 22nd day of March in the 11th year of the reign of King Henry the Eighth, before James Worsley, Esq., Eschoetor of the said Lord the King in the county aforesaid, by virtue of a writ of the same Lord the King of *diem clausit extremum** to the same Eschoetor directed and to this Inquisition, annexed by the oath of Thomas Wrichtyngton, John Newport, Esquire, Thos. Holt, Esq., Richard Rishton, William Travers, Francis Morley,

* *Diem clausit extremum*, a writ employed when the deceased had held lands *in capite*, i.e., immediately of the King, as was here the case with regard to the lands in Over-Kellet. A writ of this nature was to be granted at the suit of the next heir, who, on attaining his majority, would have to sue for "livery" or delivery of the lands out of the King's hands.

William Weston, Brian Parre, Esq., Wm. Issherwode, Henry Orrell, Wm. Johnson, Thos. Penketh, James Anderton, and Robert Molyneux, who say by their oath that THOMAS URSWYK, in the said Writ named, long before his death was seized, of and in, one messuage and tenement called Thrynkelde* in Forneys in the county aforesaid, and of six acres of land with all other and singular their appurtenances. And also of and in two messuages and ten acres of land with appurts. in *Mikkyl Urswyk* in Fournays aforesaid. And also of and in one enclosure called Kirkflatte in *Little Urswyk* in Fournays afd. with appurts. in his demesne as of fee. And also of and in the reversion of all lands, tenements, rents, reversions, and services with all and singular their appurts. in Over-Kellet in the county afd., which MARY, mother of the said Thomas held in dower and for term of her life the reversion thereof belonging to the afd. Thomas and his heirs. And further the Jurors afd. say that Roland Preston† and Robert Saulle were seized of and in three messuages and 30 acres of land with appurts. late in the tenure of Henry Myddyffett, John Douy, and Robert Sadler, in Ulverston in *Fournays in the county of Lancaster*, and of and in two acres of land in Rossett, and of one enclosure called Mowtohow in Ulverston in Fournays in the county afd. And also of and in eight acres of land in Saynton [Stainton] in the county afd. in their demesne as of fee.

And so being seized thereof they gave and granted all the aforesaid messuages, lands, tenements, and other the premises with their appurts. to the afd. THOMAS URSWYK and ELIZABETH his wife and the heirs of the

* Thrynkelde, or Trinckelde, in Furness.

† The PRESTONS were originally of Levens, Westmoreland, and of Preston Patrick, and of the Manor and Abbey after the Dissolution. They were at different periods allied with the families of Banastre, Bardsea, Middleton, Laybourne, Lord Mounteagle, Lamplough, Cancefield, &c., also after the Dissolution to those of Kirkby, Redman, Westby of Moubrick, &c., also in 17th century to those of Molineux, Lord Herbert, Lord Clifford, &c. A younger branch of this family were of Holker in Cumberland, which became extinct in 1756; the elder branch by the female line is continued in the noble families of Herbert and Clifford.

body of the same Thomas URSWYK issuing : which same Elizabeth is in full life. By virtue of which same gift the afd. THOMAS and ELIZABETH his wife were thereof seized. And afterwards the afd. Thomas URSWYK being seized of such estate thereof, of all the premises with appurts., all and singular the messuages, lands, tenements, and reversions with appurts., for a certain sum of money in hand paid to the same Thomas by William Redmayn, Esq., sold all the afd. lands, tenements, rents, reversions, uses and services with all and singular their appurts. to the afd. William Redmayn. And by his certain Charter thereof made he gave and granted all the premises with appurts. to one Master CHRISTOPHER URSWYK, Clerk, and to the aforesaid William Redmayn in fee to the use of the same William and his heirs, as by that Charter shewn to the Jurors afd. upon the taking of this Inquisition in evidence manifestly appears. By virtue of which same sale and feoffment, the aforesaid CHRISTOPHER URSWYK, Clerk, and William Redmayn were seized* in their demesne as of fee of and in all the afd. messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, and services, with all and singular, &c., in their demesne as of fee to the behoof and use of the afd. William Redmayn, his heirs and assigns. And afterwards the afd. MARY, mother of the afd. THOMAS URSWYK, being seized of all the lands and tenements with appurts. before named which she had and held in dower and for term of her life in Over-Kellet afd., gave and granted and surrendered all her estate, right, title, and interest which she had in the same lands and tenements afd., to the afd. William Redmayn. To which the afd. Wm. Redmayn agreed. By virtue whereof the said Wm. Redmayn entered into the premises and was thereof seized in fee, and so being seized thereof as it is aforesaid, he gave and granted to the afd. MARY all the afd. lands and tenements with appurts. in Over-Kellett afd. so surrendered to him as it is afd., to have and hold to her for term of her life. By virtue of which same demise the afd. Mary was and *still is* seized thereof in her demesne as

* "Seized in" or "came into possession of." "Demesne as of fee," *i.e.*, Demesne held of some superior lord by rent or service; but hereditary, *i.e.*, similar to copyhold.

of free tenement: and further the Jurors afd. say that the afd. THOS. URSWYK was seized on the day on which he died of and in sixty acres of land and sixty acres of pasture with appurts. in *Olverston in Fourneys* afd. and also of and in one small close called the *Spittill* with all the land called the *Spittill-land* in *Urswyk* afd., in his demesne as of fee-tail, that is to say to him and his heirs male of the body of JOHN URSWYK, *grandfather of the said THOMAS*, issuing.

And further the Jurors afd. say by their oath that the afd. messuage and lands and tenements in *Thrynkeld* with the afd. six acres of land with all appurts. are held of Henry, Earl of Wiltshire, and Cecily* his wife, Marchioness of Dorset and Lady of Haryngton, as of the right of the same Cecily, by what service the Jurors afd. know not. And they are worth by the year beyond reprises† six shillings, and that the afd. 60 acres of land and 60 acres of pasture in *Ulverston* and *Urswyk* so tailed as it is aforesaid are held of the said Lord Henry and Cecily by fealty, and a rent of 30s. by the year and they are worth by the year beyond reprises 30s. And the Jurors afd. say that the afd. three messuages and tenements in *Mykkel Urswyk* with appurts. are held of the said Lord Henry and Cecily in the form afd. by what service they know not, and they are worth by the year beyond reprises 4s. And the Jurors afd. say that the afd. enclosure called the *Kirkeflatte* in *Little Urswyk* afd. is held of the Earl of Derby by what service the Jurors know not. And it is worth by the year 6s. beyond reprises. And the Jurors afd. say that the afd. messuages and lands in *Ulverston* and *Staynton* are held of the afd. Lord Henry and Cecily as it is aforesaid by what service the Jurors afd. know not, and they are worth by the year in all issues beyond reprises 40s.

And the Jurors afd. say that all those lands in *Over-Kellet* afd. are held

* Cecily, or Cesill, Marchioness of Dorset, Lady Harrington and Bonville, was one of the collectors of the king's revenues in the county of Salop in 1509. See state papers of Hen. VIII., vol. 1. par. 777, and vol. 2, part 2.

† *Beyond reprises*, i.e., after all deductions and payments have been made; as rent charges, annuities, etc.

of the lord the King as of his Duchy of Lancaster by socage,* rendering to the said lord the King yearly 2s. 6d.: and they are worth by the year, &c., six pounds.

And the afd. Jurors say that the afd. THOMAS URSWYK *died on the 9th day of July in the 11th year of the reign of King Henry the Eighth.* And the Jurors afd. say that the afd. CHRISTOPHER URSWYK, *Clerk*, is son and next heir male of the body of the afd. JOHN URSWYK, begotten, and he is of the age on the day of the taking of this Inquisition of sixty years and upwards. And that ISABELLA URSWYK, sister of the afd. Thomas, James Redmayn, and William Bentam are next heirs general of the said Thomas Urswyk, and that the afd. Isabella is of the age of fifty years and above. And that the afd. James Redmayn is of the age of sixteen years. And that the afd. William Bentam is of the age of fifteen years on the day of the taking of the Inquisition aforesaid. And the afd. Jurors say that the afd. Thomas Urswyk did not hold any other or more lands nor tenements in demesne, use, reversion, or service in the county afd. of the said lord the King nor of any other. In witness whereof to this present Inquisition as well the aforesaid Eschoetor as the Jurors aforesaid have interchangeably affixed their seals. Given the day, year, and place above said.

In the above Inquisition no note is made as to whether the father of the late Thomas was still living, nor is Mary spoken of as a *widow*.

This JOHN URSWICK (son of John, and father of Thomas) must, however, have been supposed to be deceased, or he would have been heir to his father John in lieu of his brother Christopher. He must have been in the prime of life, when the battle of Bosworth Plain was fought, viz., in 1485. As

* Socage, or rent in lieu of knightly or military service. Tenants of this kind were called socmen; they were in most cases so far freeholders, that they paid only a quit-rent, or, as it was termed from the silver coin used, white-rent, in token of subjection to the king or other lord.

the Rector of Hackney was, at the time of that battle, 38 years old, his elder brother John would probably not exceed 40 years: a good age for a man to mingle in the strife, if strife there must be.

Thomas is, in this Inquisition, described as holding some of his lands of Lord Henry and his wife, who was Lady of Haryngton by *fealty*, an indication, in addition to the kinship existing, of the attachment of the Urswicks to the fortunes of the house of Haryngton, although the policy of their brother the Rector was so completely opposed to the vindictive and revengeful views which the Yorkists held.


Thomas had not been permitted to enjoy his possessions at Urswick and its neighbourhood quite unmolested, for we find, on looking into the *Records of the Duchy of Lancaster*, that not long before his death (and he evidently died young) he found it necessary to take proceedings against John Agreves and others for trespassing and pulling down a house, and for dilapidating the fences to some lands of his at "Galabere *within Furness*"; but he was not more unfortunate than his successors in this respect, for in the same volume it appears that Wm. Sawrey, Vicar of Urswick, in the succeeding reign of Edward the 6th, brought an action for assault against "Cuthbert Rigge" and others, and also in the year following (1548) against John Gerner and Margt. Backhouse, widow, for *tortious* [forcible, wrongful] possession of lands, called Little *Kirkflat*, &c. There was a case, too, of the King *versus* the Marquis of Dorset in a matter of disputed

title to the messuages and lands called *Trinckelde*, as well as right of common; and several other disputations in which the names of Sawrey and also of Redman occur, which, however, do not distinctly connect themselves with our subject.

Isabella, spinster, mentioned in the foregoing Inquisition as sister of Thomas, and aged 50, was probably a god-daughter of Isabella Vavasour, daughter of Robert Urswick of Badsworth.

XII.

Thomas Urswick, Recorder of London, and afterwards
Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

LTHOUGH we are unable to gather any history of his early life, the connexion of the Recorder with his Northern relatives, is indicated by the fact which will be presently shewn of a ROBERT URSWICK having been one of his co-trustees with regard to lands in Essex, and also of THOMAS having been himself trustee of a small estate at Garstang (which is near to Rawcliff in Lancashire, and probably at that time formed part of the Uprawcliff estate)

for Katharine Urswick. We therefore infer that Thomas was brother to Robert of Badsworth, and that Katharine was the youngest of the five daughters of Robert of Uprawcliffe and Badsworth, as shewn in the pedigree.

Also we find that Thomas, when he resigned the Recorder-ship, was succeeded in the office by a Mr. Starkey,* who came of a Lancashire family, friends of the Urswicks.

Thomas first appears on the scene as "Common Serjeant" of London, to which office he was appointed on the 27th June, 1453. On the 3rd of October, 1454, he was, for his prudence and ability, raised to the post of Recorder, on the resignation of Thos. Billing. At this time he was probably a widower, for the eldest of his daughters, shewn to have been a nun, was the one and only offspring of an early marriage, and her mother was a Needham† by birth, as the arms of that family are found quartered with those of Sir Thomas on his tomb. If we are correct in this supposition, then his second marriage with Anne, daughter of Richard Rich, a wealthy mercer of London, must have taken place in the year 1456 or 1457.

By this lady he had eight daughters and four sons; but by some fatality he had the misfortune to lose all his boys and three of his daughters. His five surviving daughters were co-heiresses at his death of his seemingly vast estates.

* See Letter of Lawrence Starkey to Thomas Cromwell, quoted further on.

† "Needham," a bend engrailed between two bucks' heads cabossed, see *Heraldic Visitations of Essex*, Harleian MSS. 1541, fo. 51b.

On the 31st of July, 1458,* he was in the company of Richard Wydevile, of Ryvers, Sir Thos. Kyrerell, Sir Thos. Brown,† Thos. Kent, clerk of the council, Master John Derby, Doctor of Laws, and others, being commissioners to make enquiry concerning the sea-fight between Richard, Earl of Warwick, and certain persons of Lubeck, who were allies of the then reigning monarch, Henry the 6th. The alliance of Henry with Margaret of Anjou, whose sympathies were in behalf of the French, made his subjects traitors to him; for he was no longer King except in name, and his Queen was determined to contest his right to the bitter end, though he himself would have fain abdicated, through failing health both of mind and body.

In the year 1453 when Thomas Urswick was made Common Serjeant, it is said that the King shewed symptoms of mental derangement; it is not, therefore, surprising that in the disturbed state of government, the rulers of the City should have deemed it good policy to encourage the advances of the House of York, in the person of Edward, Earl of March: he was then courteous of mien, as well as extremely handsome, brave withal, and had as yet shewn none of those vicious proclivities which developed themselves when he came into full power, for which, however, he deeply repented,

* Rymer's *Fœdera*.

† In July, 1461, Thomas Urswick was in commission to try treasons at Guildhall, when Sir Thos. Brown was convicted. See second battle of St. Albans, folio 93, fate of Sir Thos. Kyreil. Fosse's *Judges*.

and retribution came, as we know, in the murder of his little sons, and the unloveable union of his daughter with the triumphant heir of Lancaster.

No less than twelve of the fierce "wars of the Roses" were fought during the life of Thomas Urswyk, all, in fact, except the last and decisive one on Bosworth Plain, yet we do not know of his immediate participation in any of them, as his civic appointments, no doubt, gave him other duties to fulfil. On two occasions, viz., immediately after the second battle of St. Albans (1461), being the sixth of these destructive wars between the rival houses, and also immediately before the battle of Barnet, the 11th war (1471), Thomas Urswick made himself conspicuous by his tact and cunning in aiding the cause of the Yorkist faction.

THOMAS URSWICK was raised to the office of RECORDER of the city of London on Oct. 3rd, 1455.* After the queen had gained the second battle of St. Albans (Bernard's Heath), and was approaching London, the citizens prevented the Lord Mayor from sending her a supply of provisions. The mob stopped the supplies at Cripplegate, exclaiming that "they would not feed those who would cut their throats and rob them of all that they had."† The Mayor sent Urswick the Recorder to the king's council at Barnet, to make his excuses, and to give her majesty hopes of being admitted into London when the Commons were appeased. "The Recorder

* See the account of him by Edward Foss in his *Judges of England*.

† Kennett's *History of England*, B.I., fol. 53.

willingly announced the stoppage of supplies, but probably did not participate in the encouragement held out;—a strong partisan of the Yorkist party, he knew its power within the walls, and rejoiced to see the Earl of March enter them shortly after, and ascend the throne as Edward IV.”*

In the first parliament of the new king Thomas Urswick was returned as the representative of the City, and again in 1467, when he was one of the members selected to investigate the silver coinage.† He still held the Recordership when Henry VI. re-assumed the crown; but retaining his loyalty to Edward IV., he was deputed by the Mayor and Corporation on the Thursday before Easter, 1471, at the hour of noon, to address the citizens, which he accordingly did to the following effect:—That all was now quiet, that there would be no fighting at present, and that “alle the peple that were in harnes were every manne to goo home to dynere”; it appears the burghers were nothing loth to obey that mandate, and so soon as the streets were cleared, the Recorder, accompanied by the Mayor and Aldermen, silently let in the Earl of March and his followers through a posterne gate, who straightway repaired to the palace of the Bishop of London, where King Henry was only guarded by a few ecclesiastics, and took prisoners both him and the Archbishop of York; they were at once put in ward, but the latter was released after a two-days’ imprisonment.‡

* “*Highways and Byeways*,” in the *City Press*, by Aleph.

† *Rot. Parl.*, V. 634.

‡ *Warkworth Chron.*, 15, 21; *Holingshed*, iii. 323.

The citizens being divided in their sympathies, had a less artful or less expeditious policy been adopted, giving time for Warwick (who was advancing with his troops to London) to arrive, a very different result might have been expected.

The Mayor and Aldermen were all knighted for this achievement, and the same honour was conferred upon the Recorder at a later period.

Ten days after the battle of Tewkesbury was fought (14th May, 1471), Thomas Nevile of Falconbridge, who had been in Warwick's service, and had lost his employment at that nobleman's death, approached to London with 17,000 men; and being unable to gain the bridge, succeeded in forcing a detachment of his army through Aldgate,* and here our Recorder, THOMAS URSWICK, comes into requisition, for we learn that "being well armed in a strong jacke,"† he did great and effectual service in aiding to repel this fierce attack of De Falconbridge. The latter, brave but unfortunate as his noble master, tried to escape by sea, but was captured and executed at Southampton. For the several services which he had rendered, THOMAS URSWICK was knighted on the 14th of June, and on the 22nd of May in the following year of 1472 (on the very day on which the ill-fated Henry was assassinated in the Tower,) Sir Thomas was made Chief Baron of the Exchequer; which office he held for the remainder of his life. It is intimated that this honour was

* Rapin B. xiii. p. 615; Hollingshed, Stow.

† "Rusty airn caps, and jinglin' jackets." Robert Burns, *On Captain Grose*.

conferred upon him more for his services as a soldier, than for his qualifications as a lawyer or politician; but another writer states that he was in the first instance nominated Recorder on account of his prudence and ability; and there was a tradition that he was a fluent speaker. When made Chief Baron, it became expedient that he should resign his post as Recorder, and his place was filled in that office by his friend from the North, Humphrey Starkey. "He does not seem to have taken a prominent part in the judgments of the Exchequer Chamber, being only mentioned in four terms in the fifteenth and sixteenth years during his continuance in office."* Sir Thomas's fortunes, so far as worldly possessions without much honour were concerned, were certainly now consummated, for grants of land, and means to obtain further possessions, came thickly upon him. The City Corporation also shewed their gratitude by awarding him two pipes of wine per annum, and another pipe if he required it, which possibly he did, unless he were more self-denying and tender to the feelings of his benefactors than a modern citizen would be under such an extenuating clause. Sir Thomas and his lady and his tolerably large family resided at Markes Hall, near Romford; it was possibly at that time a very agueish and far from healthy home, and this may have in some degree accounted for the loss in their childhood and early youth of his four sons and three of his daughters. He may have had reason to envy, in spite of his riches, the fate of his hardy

* Foss's *Judges*, iv. 460.

kinsmen of the North; he could scarcely have had very tender feelings towards young Christopher Urswick, who was then in his opening manhood, sowing the seeds of diplomatic enterprise which would finally crush the present dynasty, and disarm all future antagonism, by a matrimonial alliance between the hitherto hostile Houses. Yet each of these men was an example of the idiosyncrasy of the Saxon race from which they sprung; each in his cause, whether right or wrong, faithful and devoted. They were not wise enough to be time-servers, this we may say advisedly; for Sir Thomas Urswick was a faithful servant of the city of London, and only cared for the monarch who would be recognised by it for the time being; and on the other hand, Christopher Urswick was, being a man of greater learning and higher aspirations, a faithful servant of his royal master (Henry VII.), and never deviated from his allegiance to him, either as Earl or King.

In 1476 Sir Thomas Urswick, Knt., Sir Thos. Montgomery, Knt., Sir John Say, Knt., John Elryngton, Wm. Alyngton, and divers others were commissioned to view, and order the repairs of, all the banks of the river Lea, from London to Ware and Hertford.*

When he was Recorder, he probably resided at a manor called Ewell or Tyle House in Stepney, for in 1467 he conveyed that estate to one John Barcester. In connexion with his after-possession of Markes Hall (which was an

* Chauncy's *History of Hertfordshire*, page 4.

ancient building, enclosed by a moat, and not wholly pulled down until 1808), there were two dwellings, a windmill, 360 acres of land, and also a rental of £5 10s. He was also the owner of Le Lee Hall (afterwards called Hatfield Broad Oak) with 300 acres, and a rental of 50s., within the township of Hatfield Regis; also a tenement called Lithe Hall, with 50 acres of land; also the manor of Uphavering (or Gabrous) in Romford, consisting of 222 acres and a rental of 8s. 1d. Also a manor called Doneres, and 15 messuages in Dagenham, Barking, and Colchester. Also the tenement called Plinherst with 30 acres, near Haveryng atte Bowre. Also the manor of "Achewys," now called "Mile End," which was conveyed to him in 1472 by one Wm. Peche. Also he held lands at "Halyngbury Parva," or Little Hallingbury, Bishops Stortford, Herts, and at Machyng, or "Matching," near Harlow, Essex,—these were held of Anne, Duchess of Burgundy. These several estates did Sir Thomas hold by knightly service, or by payment of a knight's fee; some of Elizabeth, Edward's queen, and some of Anne, Duchess of Burgundy, with the right to bequeath them to his lawful heirs.

Although Sir Thomas had such a large family, he was not much exceeding 60 years of age, when he died, in the year 1479, his youngest child still an infant; having only survived for seven years his advancement to the honour of Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

He lies buried at Dagenham,* in Essex, in the chancel of

* Dagenham, 2½ miles from Rainham, 5 miles from Barking, Tilbury line of railway.

a church which has been much "repaired and beautified" out of its original form, but the old plain altar-tomb of Sir Thomas Urswick has been much desecrated; a brass, which would have afforded evidence of his exact age, has been removed from the dado, and also two shields from the ledger, leaving, however, fortunately those two remaining, which are the most valuable as exhibiting the arms of Urswick in combination with those of "Needham" and "Rich." One of the lost brass shields has been removed from above, the other from below, the figures of Sir Thomas and his lady, and the groups of his sons and daughters,—each on separate plates, but the accompanying tracing, which was taken in the year 1849 from an illustration in a work of the Cambridge Camden Society, shews both the remaining brasses below the figures, and not as they will be seen by the visitor to the tomb. "Sir Thomas* is attired in a long gown, reaching to the feet, and girt about the waist; over the shoulders is thrown a mantle, which being held up in consequence of the hands being raised in the attitude of prayer, displays a lining of silk. The hood, though a distinguishing sign of judicial costume, is wanting: the effigies of Judge Gascoign† at Harewood Church, Yorkshire, and of Sir Peter Adam in Sutton Church, Essex, are both supplied with this mark of dignity. Lady Urswick is attired in a gown, low at the

* Here we quote "Aleph" *City Scraps*, City Press, in his most carefully written delineation.

† Vavasor impaling Gascoign, Badsworth Church, see above.

Brass in Dagonham Church Eux of Thomas & his wife & 13 children



bosom, and very small at the waist; the sleeves have large cuffs, nearly covering the hands, which, like those of her husband, are placed in a devotional position; the hair is drawn down from the forehead, and gathered into a caul or cap of elaborately rich work, and is covered with one of those extraordinary veils, stiffened with starch and distended with wire, which has taken the name of the "Butterfly head-dress"; her neck is adorned with a rich necklace of pearls and jewels, and the whole figure furnishes a good specimen of the wonderful richness in dress for which the ladies of her age were famous. A pet dog lies at her feet." "The four sons, under the effigy of the Baron, all wear long gowns, tightened by girdles, the common dress of youths of that period. The group of daughters present a variety of costume. First is a nun, who owing to her religious vocation, if alive at her father's death, would be deemed in law to be civilly dead, and could not have inherited.* The next two daughters are attired like their mother; they were both married before their father's death; the other daughters are depicted with long hair streaming down their backs, as maidens are usually drawn on sepulchral brasses; to make up the number, three must have deceased during the Baron's life, for three imperfect figures are arranged in the background, and these probably represent this portion of the family." The two brasses of

* In all probability, she was a novice of the Abbey of Furness, to which the Urswicks were deeply attached, and, no doubt, on her admission her father presented a handsome endowment to that monastery.

shields now remaining are as follows: One at the head of the stone above the effigy of Lady Urswick, exhibiting her family arms, viz., "A chevron between three cross crosets," and one at the foot of the stone below the effigy of the Baron, which represents his old family arms, viz., "On a bend three lozenges; on each lozenge a saltire or cross." And quartered with the arms of "Needham,"* viz., "A bend engrailed between two bucks' heads cabossed," and these quarterings impale (that is, are united with, so as to form one shield) the arms of Sir Thomas's wife's family, viz., those of "Rich," a chevron between three cross crosets, as shewn separately above the figure of the lady.

By the post-mortem Inquisition of Sir Thomas, held at Romford, and dated 5th Nov., 1479, it is shewn that the manor of Markes, and properties in Havering-atte-Bowre, also in Dagenham, Barking, and Colchester, had formerly been in the holding of one Thos. Hamesard, which estates he demised to Katherine, wife of Bartholomew Seman (late citizen and goldbeater of London) for her life, and in remainder to Robt. Knolles, of Forde, Esq., and Elizabeth his wife; the said Elizabeth dying without issue, and her husband surviving her, he, Robert Knolles, granted the said manors, lands, tenements, etc., to THOMAS URSEWYCK, John Say, John Walden, Thos. Coke, Richd. Rich, Guy Farrefay,

* There is a record that Thomas Urswick and Richard Nedeham were co-trustees of some lands in the possession of the Ponynge ("Master Comptroller Ponynge"), a friend of Christopher Urswick.

and ROBERT URSEWYCK, as co-feoffees (or trustees). Guy Farrefay alone outlived Thomas Ursewyck, and became sole trustee and one of the executors of Sir Thomas in favour of his five surviving daughters, who were left co-heiresses of his property.

We may as well here enumerate the family, so far as we have any records of them. First then, of the eldest (the nun) we can, of course, say nothing, as her name was buried with her when she took the veil. The second, *Katherine*, who was, at her father's death, aged 21 years and more, had been for some time married to a Mr. Henry Langley. Next to Katherine came *Ralph*, who had died in his childhood, but who would at this time have been about 20 years of age. *Anne*, then aged 19, was already the wife of a Mr. John Doreward, or Durward, of Essex; she appears to have shortly been left a widow, for we find, by an old Harleian manuscript,* that she became the wife of Sir Thomas Fynes, of Claveryngham, son of Sir Richard Fynes, who was the Lord Dacres of the South. Joan, the wife of Sir Richard Fynes, was the granddaughter of Lord Dacres of the North. This Sir Thomas Fynes (or Fynys) was a tenant of Christopher Urswick's benefice, or as he expresses it in his will, a "farmer of his parsonage of Felpham in the diocese of Chichester," some few years later.

After Anne came *Margaret*, who, with her three brothers and two sisters, whose names are not recorded, found an early grave. We find the names of Ralph and Margaret, from the fact of their uncle John Rich having bequeathed to them at his death about 1461 or 1462, as well as their sister Anne, "each 5 marks for a cup at their marriage": should we not deem it now a strange bequest? Margaret was an infant, Anne and Ralph, children of 1 and 2 years. Katherine was not included in this little memento, which would lead one to suppose that she was own sister to the nun, the offspring of an early marriage, for she was then a child of 3 years old, and why

* No. 1541, folio 51b., *Visitations of Essex*. See also Berry's *County* (of Sussex) *Genealogies*, Brit. Mus. Lib., 2120f., folio 331, and additional MSS. 14311, folio 7.

should her uncle John exclude her, as the eldest of the then existing family? We may form our conjectures as to the melancholy gap in the years before the next heiress is named, viz., *Elisabeth*, who was aged 14 years at her father's death, and we read no more of her; then comes, with another gap, *Jane*, aged 8 years, and who afterwards became the wife of John Gilborne, of York. And lastly, *Mary*, then an infant of 9 months, but who lived to be the wife of Thos. Scott (grandson of Wm. Scott, of Stapleford-Tany, who died and was buried there on 3rd Nov., 1491). Thomas Scott had an elder brother, George, who died without issue. These Scotts were an influential family.

The mother (now a widow) of nearly the whole of this family, was, as already stated, a daughter of Richard Rich, a wealthy mercer of London. His father, also named Richard, died in 1414, and was buried in St. Lawrence Church, Ivy Lane: he was great grandson of John le Rich, of Riches Place, Hampshire, living in the reign of Edward the 2nd.

Richard Rich, father of Anne Urswick, was Sheriff of London in 1441; he died in 1462. He had succeeded in acquiring great wealth: in 1440 he bestowed five almshouses upon the parish of Hoddesdon, which may be seen recorded as the first on the list of benefactions on a board in the porch of Broxbourne Church.*

Besides Anne, he had two daughters, viz., Katherine, wife of Wm. Marrow, and Margaret, wife of Alderman J. Walden; also two sons, viz., John, who, as already stated, died before his father, and a younger son, Thomas. John in his will made several charitable bequests, viz., to hospitals, the "house of lepers" at Kingsland, near Hackney. Also others for religious purposes, besides numerous legacies to his different relations, the 5 marks to his nephew and two nieces before mentioned. "To my mother my tablet of gold," "To my father my signet of gold," etc. He desired to be buried in the churchyard of St. Thomas of Acon, London.

* Clutterbuck's *Herts*, II. 72; Cussans, *Hertford*, 204.

Lady Anne Urswick was an exceedingly handsome woman; our writer in the "City Press," quoting the poet Chaucer, compares her to the beautiful prioress in the "Canterbury Tales." "She hadde a fayre forehead, almost a spanne brode, I trow," "and the lofty brow and noble countenance of Lady Urswyk attract immediate attention from the spectator," he adds.

Lady Anne did not long remain a widow; in 1482 we find her the wife of a Kentish squire, holding lands in Otford and Kemsing. Perhaps this her second marriage gave some offence to, or disturbed the arrangements of, the executors of the late Sir Thomas: however this may be, Lady Anne and her husband, John Palmer, found it needful to issue a writ in chancery to claim the rights of the said "Dame Anne;" but whether (under the circumstances) she succeeded in obtaining those rights, or whether by her second marriage she had in any degree forfeited them, we will not attempt to determine. Before they, viz., Anne and her husband, John Palmer, had caused this writ to be issued, they had had to reply, in defence, to a previous appeal made by a niece of the late Sir Thomas, viz., Dame Katharine Urswick: and whether this was the result of any premeditated negligence, or whether of careless indifference to a pending duty during the life of Sir Thomas, or whether Dame Katharine had failed to keep watch over, or taken note of the state of her affairs, we will also not attempt to determine, but will place these "writs in

chancery" before the reader in an abbreviated form, leaving him to form his own judgment.

They are three in number, viz., the first—an appeal of Dame Katherine against Dame Anne and her husband, John Palmer, for the restitution of her estates; the second—an appeal of Dame Anne and her husband against the executors for the proper and fair administration of the estates of the late Sir Thomas in behalf of his widow; and the third—an appeal of Dame Anne, *again a widow*, against her step-son, Thomas Palmer, viz., a son of her late husband, John Palmer, and the executors of the late John Palmer for a fair and proper division of the estate of the late John Palmer, as demised in his will to his widow, Dame Anne.

The first is addressed to the "right reverend Father in God, Thomas, the Archbishop of York, Chauncellor of England." "Meekly beseecheth your good and gracious Lordship," etc., and Dame Katherine goes on to shew how her inheritance of Stiresacre* within the parish of Garstang† in the county of Lancaster, was delivered *of great trust* unto one THOMAS URSWYK, *Knight, now dead*, safely to be kept to *her* (Dame Katherine's) *use*. And that since the death of Sir Thomas and the union of his widow with John Palmer, Dame Katherine had made numerous and *fruitless* applications for restoration of the deeds, escripts, evidences, and muniments in the hands of John Palmer and his wife Anne. That she, Katherine, could not determine whether they were enclosed in chest, bag, or box, or whether locked or sealed, and *therefore had no redress by course of common law*. Therefore she pleads of the Lord High Chancellor an adjustment of her wrongs by summoning the said John and his wife Anne to appear at the King's Court of Chancery. And this writ is signed by her two witnesses, Richard Pryce and John Huet or Hewet, *yeomen* of London. John Palmer and Anne his wyfe, reply to this "bill of compleynt" of Dame Katherine Urswyke.

After a little boast, viz., "That the matter in the said bill contained was not sufficient or certain to be answered in *law* or *conscience*, and *if it were*, it is *determinable by common law*, and *not in this court*"; the defendants go on

* Stiresacre, or Steer's Acre.

† Garstang, see above.

to say that divers times since the decease of the said Thomas Urswyk, the said Katherine had sent for and desired such evidences as the said Anne held in her hands of the estates of the said Katherine; and that in consequence Dame Anne had taken to one "Thomas FitzWilliam" a box containing all such evidences, and that he, Thomas FitzWilliam, had forwarded the same by Dame Katherine's own servant, Richard Beylby. And they (John and Anne) "request to be dismissed out of this court with their reasonable costs," and possibly they were, for Katherine was a country dame, the youngest (but now no longer very young) daughter of ROBERT (one of Thomas's executors) her late father, who had been lord of Uprawcliffe; a small portion of the outskirts of which, viz., in Garstang, had fallen to her share, in a tolerably large family, and which might be a needful provision for her advancing years. This bill is dated the 11th of February of 1482.

And now follow the second Chancery proceedings, in which John Palmer and his wife Anne (late the wyfe of Thomas Urswyk, Knt.) *accuse* one John Pynchon, yet living, and others deceased, who had held the manor of "Markes," messuages, a windmill, and 600 acres of land, meadow, wood, and pasture in Dagenham, Barking, Havering, and Romford in the county of Essex (*in their demesne as of fee*) "*to the use and behoof* of the said Thomas Urswyk, Knight, late Chief Baron of the King's Exchequer, and of his heirs, and to the intent to perform his last will"; John Savage, *clerk*, and others deceased being co-trustees. That he, John Pynchon, being the surviving and acting trustee, refused to render an account of the same estates for the benefit of Dame Anne and her daughters, as declared by the will of the late Sir Thomas. This appeal is addressed to the Bishop of Lincoln, then Chancellor of England, and is dated the 29th November, 1482.

The third writ is addressed to the same potentate by Anne Palmer, *now again a widow*, complaining that Thomas Palmer (son and heir of her late husband John, by his former marriage) and the other trustees of her late husband's estates, have failed in the performance of their duty with respect to her marriage settlement, which had been confirmed by the last will and

testament of the deceased John Palmer, viz., that she should have a sure and sufficient estate out of her late husband's possessions, being the manor of Rye,* in Otford, Kent, six messuages, and about 68 acres of land and meadow in Otford and Kemsing, and also lands and tenements bearing a rental of £4 per annum in the counties of Sussex, Middlesex, and Essex, and others in same counties rented at 10 marks per annum.

The widow Palmer states that she "hath divers times required the said feoffees to make her estate of these aforesaid manors, lands, tenements, etc., and that they have refused, and yet refuse against good conscience, to cause the same to be done," and that she "hath no remedy by the common law," and so she meekly beseeches his Lordship to grant her a writ of "subpoena to be directed to the said Thomas Palmer and the other trustees, viz., John Bramston, Squire John Tyrill, George Cheynewe, Piers Parker, and Walter at the Wode, commanding them and every of them to appear before the King in his Court of Chancery on a certain day, there to answer to the premises and to do according to right and good conscience: and so she will ever pray," etc.

* The Rye House Manor was held by the family of Palmer in the reign of Richard 3rd, and remained in their possession till that of Henry 8th, when it was sold to the king by one of their descendants. Vide J. Hunt, D.D., *Day of Rest*, 1878, vol. IX. page 362.





XIII.

Christopher Urswick, Dean of Windsor.

SHAKSPEARE'S KING RICHARD III.—Act IV., Scene 5.

Lord Stanley's House.

Enter LORD STANLEY and SIR CHRISTOPHER URSWICK.

STANLEY— Sir Christopher, tell Richmond this from me,
That in the stye of this most bloody boar,
My son George Stanley is frank'd up in hold :
If I revolt, off goes young George's head ;
The fear of that withholds my present aid,
But tell me where is princely Richard now ?

CHRISTOPHER—At Pembroke or at Har'fordwest in Wales

STANLEY— What men of name resort to him ?

CHRISTOPHER—Sir Walter Herbert, a renowned soldier ;
Oxford, redoubted Pembroke, Sir James Blunt,
And Rice ap Thomas, with a valiant crew ;
And many others of great name and worth ;
And towards London do they bend their course,
If by the way they be not fought withal.

STANLEY— Well, hie thee to my lord ; commend me to him ;
Tell him the queen hath heartily consented,
He shall espouse Elizabeth her daughter.
These letters will resolve him of my mind. Farewell

SUFFICIENTLY abundant materials are afforded
wherewith an expert author might weave a very
copious history of the worthy and industrious man,
thus named by Shakspeare.

He would never have been entrusted with so many im-

portant offices and commissions, had he not possessed great abilities, nor have been eulogised as he was, without possessing very amiable characteristics. John Weever, an old writer on monumental brasses, speaks thus of him: "I have not heard
"of many clergiemmen, neither in his, nor in these dayes, that
"would relinquish and refuse thus many ecclesiastical honours
"and preferments, and content himself with a private
"parsonage: but here let him rest as an example for all our
"great prelates to admire, and for few or none to imitate."

Nevertheless, although a lack of ambition and a sense of the emptiness of earthly renown may have had much to do with the decision of Christopher in refusing, as he did, the bishopric of Norwich (the circumstance to which Weever probably mostly refers), yet a longing for rest after the arduous life he had passed (and being then in his 52nd year), consisting as it had, of a series of ever-varying and most responsible duties, often allowing him but scant time to form friendships and create sympathies; closed to him as the doors were (by the inexorable superstition of a degenerate priesthood) to the calm joys of a domestic home; the hopeless prospect of ever inducing his own kinsfolk to participate in his political views; all these conflicting yet blending feelings must have combined to form a sufficient pretext for acting as he did, and seeking retirement at last in the forest-veiled village of Hackney.

CHRISTOPHER URSWICK, son of John Urswick, of Furness, was born in the year 1448. Of his early life we can only

conjecture. The fact of his father and mother being a lay brother and sister of Furness Abbey (meaning in all probability, from what we gather from Thos. West's work, that they held and cultivated lands contiguous to, and for the use and suppliance of the inmates of, the monastery, and had to conform to the rules of the same), and also his bequest of a gold cup to the lord Abbot, are suggestive of his having spent his boyhood's days near the home of his ancestors, receiving his early education under the Abbot's guidance. His respect and attachment to the University of Oxford is hardly a sufficient ground for supposing that there he matriculated as a Doctor of Laws and Divinity. The fact of his being chosen Master of King's Hall, Cambridge, in 1495, identifies him mainly with this University.

During a portion of his youth we have reason to suppose that he resided at Baddesworth in Yorkshire, as he states in a letter to Lord Darcy that he held a portion of that estate by "knightly service"; and there is little doubt that, observing his thoughtful disposition and early talent for diplomacy, the Stanleys were willing and eager to encourage him by any means to support the end which they had in view, viz., the union of the two conflicting houses of York and Lancaster by a matrimonial alliance between Henry, Earl of Richmond, and Elizabeth, daughter of Edward the 4th; so Margaret, Earl Henry's mother (now lately married to Sir Thomas Stanley, 1st Earl of Derby), made Christopher her chaplain and confessor, and although he was appointed

Rector of Puttenham,* in Herts, on the 21st of December, 1482, being then about 35 years of age, he was compelled to relinquish his duties there in 1484, his services being required by his patroness, the Countess of Richmond, who despatched him to Flanders, to assist with Cardinal Moreton, Bishop of Ely, in watching over the interests, and guarding the person, of her son Henry, who was there under the protection (?) of the Duke of Bretagne. Hugh Conway was another messenger also despatched on the same errand shortly after, with money to provide men and all necessities for the Earl's safe conduct to this country when all should be ripe. Earl Henry was then at Bretagne, and Christopher, as secretary, carried on a secret correspondence by which he subverted the treacherous designs of the Duke of Gloucester, who was using Peter Landose (treasurer of the Duke of Bretagne, under whose protection Henry was supposed to be) as an agent to endeavour to get the Earl into his power. Thus was he, Christopher, the means not only of eventually raising Earl Henry to the throne, but of preserving his life: for who opposed Richard, Duke of Gloucester, and lived when in his power?

Christopher† now was chaplain and confessor to the son,

* Clutterbuck, *History of Hertfordshire*, I. 471; Urwick's *Nonconformity in Herts*, 455, 456.

† He did not conduct these affairs by correspondence, but made several journeys between England and Flanders. See Fr. Bacon's *History of Henry VII.*, Works, Montague Ed., V. 41-43, 91; Speed's *History*, 925; Knight's *Erasmus*, 76.

as he had been to the mother, and he made that son acquainted with all the agreements that had been made between her and the queen-dowager, and with what pleasure the latter entertained the prospect of a settlement of old enmities by the union of her daughter with the Earl; also how the Duke of Buckingham had been one of the first projectors of the scheme. It was really devised by Bishop Moreton,* who was in the custody of the Duke by order of King Richard, who hated and dreaded that prelate's influence. Moreton inflamed Buckingham's mind by describing Richard's villanies, and Reginald Bray,† another faithful servant to Henry's mother, the Countess of Richmond, became an active agent in her behalf at home, while Moreton and Urswick were aiding the Earl abroad. Buckingham having declined to grant the Bishop a formal permission to retire to his diocese, lest he should awaken the suspicions of King Richard, Moreton availed himself of an opportunity connived at by him to make his escape, and it appears that he reached Flanders before the arrival of the countess's messenger, Christopher Urswick; and having heard from him all the

* John Moreton, LL.D., was made Archdeacon of Huntingdon in 1475, and Bishop of Ely in 1478. Like his contemporaries, he held very numerous appointments, as Archdeaconry of Chichester, Rectory of St. Dunstan's East, etc.

† Made Knight of the Garter by Henry the 7th. He was a friend of Urswick's, was present on Bosworth field where he was knighted. He became chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, and high steward of both Universities. In 1497 he was speaker of the House of Commons. He died August 5th, 1503, and was buried in St. George's, Windsor. He had a great delight in architecture, was a man of singular wisdom and a fervent lover of justice.—Cooper, *Athenae Cantab.*, I. 6.

latest particulars of the enterprize, despatched him without a day's delay to the Earl at Vannes, who again hurried him off with a message to Charles, King of France, begging safe conduct for himself and followers into that king's dominions.

The passport obtained, and all being prepared, it was yet with great difficulty that Henry succeeded in making his escape, with only five attendants, including Urswick, from Vannes. The Duke of Bretagne, though his friend, was too old and feeble to be aware that his treasurer Landais was an artful tool of King Richard, narrowly watching the movements of the Earl. The latter succeeded in crossing the frontier in less than an hour before his pursuers were on the spot beyond which Landais and his men could not venture to follow. Having reached Angers by lanes and unfrequented paths, from thence Henry repaired to the French court at Langeais, and obtaining an aid of 2,000 men, with vessels sufficient for the expedition, landed safely at Milford Haven, and the decisive battle of Bosworth ensued. Richard was now a subject of hatred among many who had formerly espoused his cause, he had executed Sir George Brown, Sir Roger Clifford, and Sir Thomas St. Leger, who had opposed him, and also the unfortunate William Collingburne, for writing the distich about "The cat, the rat, and Lovell the dog, Ruled all England under the hog."* He had heard by his spies abroad that the countess's agents were carrying on

* Viz., Catesby, "the cat," Ratcliffe, "the rat," and Richard, "the hog," in reference to his badge of a "boar."

a close correspondence with many of the chief persons in this kingdom, and he supposed the Earl to be efficiently protected by the Duke of Bretagne, and these circumstances made him tremble. In August, 1485, Henry, Earl of Richmond, with a small company, including Christopher, marched from Milford Haven to Shrewsbury, where the gates were shut against him. So he returned with his company to a village called Forton, three miles from Shrewsbury, where he lay that night; and in the morning he was admitted to the town, and marching forward came to Bosworth, where the battle was fought between him and Richard III., in which Richard was slain.*

Christopher Urswick's newly-blown honours (now that the Earl was established on the throne by his victory on Bosworth field) came thickly upon him. On the 21st of September, 1485, one month after the battle, the king having meanwhile constituted him his counsellor and almoner, he, "the king's well-beloved chaplain, Master Christopher Urswike, the king's almoner," receives a grant for life of the prebend within the collegiate chapel of St. Stephen, within the palace of Westminster, void by decease of Master Thomas Danet, and of late surreptitiously and by pretended and unjust title occupied

* Henry VII. never forgot Shrewsbury. In 1488 he stayed there several days; and again in 1498 the king, queen, and prince Arthur were present at St. George's feast, which was held in St. Chad's church. The parish of St. Chad is the largest in the town, and includes part of Shelton. Hanwood also is in the town liberties. Prince Arthur died at Ludlow Castle in 1502, aged 16 years.—Phillips' *Shrewsbury*, pp. 41, 89, 225.

by one Master William Beverlay. On the 23rd instant he has another "grant for life" of the office of Notary of the Chancery, for which, as a Doctor of Laws, he was qualified, and for which wages were paid to him out of the hanaper. On the following day, the 24th, he is appointed to the office of collecting the property forfeited by felons, for the augmentation of the king's alms, and to hold such office as long as he should remain the king's almoner. On the 25th of November, 1483, he is made Master of King's Hall, Cambridge,* on the surrender of that office by Henry Bost, who had held it since Edward the 4th's time; Urswick was to have all such rights and profits out of the issues of the counties of Cambridge and Hunts, "with 8 marks for two robes," as had been enjoyed in the reign of Edward the 3rd.†

It is evident that during Urswick's negotiations abroad, his Rectory at Puttenham must have been supplied by a curate, or secular chaplain, as he does not make a formal resignation of that living until the 26th November (viz., the day following his appointment to the Mastership above named), and is then succeeded by Thomas Chantry.

On the 4th of February, 1486, were drawn out, in anticipation of the ambassadorial functions which Master Christopher

* Cooper, *Athenae Cantab.*, I. 24, 526.

† "An act of resumption passed this year contains exceptive clauses in favour of King's Hall and Christopher Urswick, the king's almoner, master or keeper of that house. After his coronation the king began with a progress towards the north. He came from Waltham to Cambridge, where he was honourably received both of the University and of the town."—Cooper's *Annals of Cambridge*, I. 232.

would soon have to undertake, very laudatory letters of commendation, which would constitute the credentials and passport of the said "trusty almoner" to the king of Naples, the king of France, the bishops of the Church of St. Peter at Rome, and all other foreign kings, princes, potentates, and noblemen with whom he might have to confer, craving from them safe conduct and protection not only for the person of the said trusty almoner, but also for his horses and attendants, his letters and papers, his baggage and all his properties (so minutely detailed that it would almost appear to include his shaving tackle), and to send back the trusty almoner whole and sound, with all his belongings, so soon as his mission was fulfilled, and thus earn the "eternal gratitude of the king." These letters, which are written in Latin, are dated as above, from the court of "Westminster."*

On the 20th of the same month Urswick was presented to the Prebend of Chiswick,† in the patronage of the Bishop of London. And on the 6th of March he is present as one of the witnesses to the ceremony of delivering the Chancellor's seal to John Moreton, Bishop of Ely, the other witnesses being Fox, Bishop of Exeter, and the Duke of Bedford. This took place at 10 o'clock in the forenoon in a chamber of the "Hospital of St. John's of Jerusalem, without the bars of Smithfield." A sequel of the same with regard to the safe

* *Calendar of State Papers*, Henry VII., Feb. 4, 1486.

† Newcourt's *Repertorium*, I. 139. Newcourt in his note confounds Christopher with Thomas the Recorder.

disposition of the said "Grand Seal," was conducted at the same hour, in the same place, on the day following, in the presence of William Bolton, Richard Skipton, and Robert Blackwall.

On the 10th of November following (1486), Lord Dynham being treasurer, Christopher Urswick receives £10 for his costs and expenses on a journey to the castle of Hornby, Lancaster, by order of the king, bearing a letter under the Privy seal to Jacob Haryngton and others* in the said castle by his own hands; and this commission which was to convey a message of conciliation on the part of King Henry, must have been one of difficulty and perplexity, for the Haryngtons were the king's most determined foes, regarding him as a mean and base usurper, to which unjust conclusion, it is needless to say, they were led by the contemplation of past cruelties perpetrated by the former supporters of the Lancastrian cause against their forefathers, for which Henry was in no degree responsible, and which ought to have been, under the existing dynasty, forgiven and forgotten.

Christopher was going, too, among his own kinsfolk, closely allied as they were, by marriage, to these Haryngtons, and many of them, no doubt, sharing their political views,

* They had probably been in a measure concerned in the rebellion of Lord Lovell which occurred about this time in the matter of the pretender Simnel. Lord Lovell lodged for a time with Sir Thomas Broughton; the king issued a pardon through the Duke of Bedford, at the head of 3,000 men, but Lovell doubted the inclination of his own people to keep the peace, and fled to the court of the duchess of Burgundy.

dependent upon them in some measure, as they also appear to have been for their agrarian possessions; and his placid and peace-loving disposition, his eloquence and powers of persuasion, must have stood the king in good stead on this very trying occasion, and gained the hearts of many of his misguided Northern subjects, by which he was eventually able to crush the rebellion stirred up by the ignorant supporters of the pretender Lambert Simnel, and to mercifully put that youth (1486) in the comfortable and appropriate position of a scullion in his kitchen, from which, being well behaved to his superiors, saucy to his equals, and good-looking and handsome, as well as clever, he was soon raised to the higher post of falconer. All that Urswick may have said, although it no doubt mitigated the rising spirit of turbulence in Lancaster, did not dissuade some of the Haryngtons, already suffering confiscation for their participation in the cause of the late King Richard, from joining Sir Thomas Broughton in his expedition to support this Simnel and his projectors, deluded, as they were, by the duchess of Burgundy, and thus brought about the ruin of their houses, and of others who were connected with them.

On the 9th of March in the following year, 1487, Christopher Urswick was presented to the living of All Hallows* in the city and diocese of London, *vice* Alexander

* Newcourt (I. 249) does not name Urswick, who probably declined the appointment in favour of John Finneaux, whom Newcourt names as Rector from 1487 to 1510.

King, deceased, the said living being in the hands of the Crown, by reason of the minority of Edward, Earl of Warwick; given at the king's palace at Shene; and on the 18th of April to the living of the parish of Chaddisley, near Kidderminster, in the diocese of Bath and Wells, given at Thetford, which he resigned on October 11th, the following year. In Easter term of 1488 he received, under the Privy seal, a further grant of £10, on account of expenses incurred by his embassies, or rather, as it is here stated, "by way of reward."

On the 10th of March, 1488-9, a deputation consisting of John Weston, prior of St. John's, Master John Gunthorpe, dean of the cathedral church of Wells, Master CHRISTOPHER URSWICK, the king's almoner, Master Thomas Savage, and Master Henry Aynesworth, Doctor of Laws, the king's counsellors, were appointed to treat for truce or perpetual peace with the most illustrious Ferdinand, king of Castile and Leon, and the most serene and noble princess his wife, the Lady Isabella, or their ambassadors or deputies. In these embassies Urswick evidently stood in the position of secretary and treasurer, and he was wont to head the formula of these treaties for peace with the words, "When Christ came into the world, peace was sung; when He went out of the world, peace was bequeathed."

On the 16th of April in that same year of 1488, by a grant given at Chichester, Urswick having resigned the office of master or warden of King's Hall College, Cambridge, John

Blithe was appointed his successor. On the 22nd of May, 1488, Christopher Urswick, *Doctor of Laws*, was created *Dean of York*.* On the 14th of November, on the resignation of Richard Langport, Urswick was presented to the living of Bradwell-juxta-Mare, being in the gift and patronage of Sir Giles Lord Dawbeney.† On the 11th of December Urswick, together with Thomas Warde and Stephen Fryon, had authority as commissioners of the king to treat with Charles, king of France, for firm and lasting treaty of peace and friendship between the said kings and their subjects.

These several embassies,—to Ferdinand, king of Spain, the king of the Romans, and Charles, king of France,—in which Christopher Urswick was employed, were all linked together under one circumstance, namely this.

The dukedom of Bretagne was falling to the crown of France, and Charles, the French king, was undertaking a war to further and support his claim, when King Henry of England offered himself as a mediator, and sent his chaplain Urswick, with instructions that should the French king consent to terms of pacification, he should immediately negotiate with the duke of Bretagne.

The affairs of the latter, who was old and infirm, as already stated, were being conducted by the duke of Orleans, and as King Charles knew that Orleans would not consent to a treaty, although he received Urswick courteously, and professed his desire to be entirely guided by the will of

* Anthony a Wood, *Athenae Oxon.*, I. 652. Also, on the 10th May in this year he was, on the death of Lipear, appointed to the prebend of Lincoln, which he resigned in May, 1495, in favour of Peter Pennock.

† In the will of Sir Giles Dawbeney, or Daubney, Knt., Chamberlain to Henry VII., Christopher Urswick is named as one of the executors. See Lansdowne MSS., No. 978, folio 89b, old number 109. The will is dated 19th May, 1508.

Henry VII., he was merely dissembling, knowing, or at least forming a tolerably correct judgment on, what the result of Urswick's mission to Orleans would be; in which he was correct, for the duke of Orleans replied to King Henry's message in rather high terms, saying that the "Duke of Bretagne had tenderly protected King Henry in his days of weakness and misfortune, and that he now looked to him rather for brave troops for his succour, than for a vain treaty of peace."

Thus the French king gained the pretext he desired for carrying on the war, and Henry had to use threatening means, finding his persuasions were unavailing. He sent Urswick and Sir Richard Risley to the Emperor Maximilian, king of the Romans, and also despatched envoys to the kings of Spain and Portugal, as if he would form a league against Charles, and the latter was not indisposed, after several conflicts, turmoils, and antagonistic negotiations lasting three years subsequent to the death of the duke of Bretagne, to unite himself by marriage to the young duchess, his daughter and heiress, although that lady had, by deputy, already been allied to the Emperor Maximilian.*

On the 7th of May in the year 1489 the king wrote to the "Treasurer and Chamberlain of the Exchequer" as follows: "For as much as we have appointed and assigned unto the ambassadors† of our cousin the King of the Romans (late comen unto us) the sum of seven score and fifteen pounds sterling by way of reward. We will therefore and charge you that without delay ye deliver the said sum of seven score and fifteen pounds in ready money to our full trusty clerke

* Samuel Knight's *Life of Erasmus*, pp. 76, 77; Speed's *History of Great Britain*, sub. *Henry VII.*, 925, 954; Lord Bacon's *History of Henry VII.*, Works (Montague Ed.), V. 41-43.

† The ambassadors had waited on the king at "Easter term" just past, and the amount of "their reward" had been determined by a writ under the Privy seal, viz., £155,—exceeding £1,550 of modern valuation.

and counsellor Christopher Urswyk, our almoner, to the intent to divide and distribute the same amongst the said ambassadors according as we have given him [in] commandment. At our Castle of Hertford."

In the following year Urswick was Canon of St. George's, Windsor, and also was appointed to the Archdeaconry of Wiltshire; also on the 21st of October in the same year a grant was issued from the palace at Westminster to Sir Giles Lord Dawbeney, Christopher Urswyk, and Master John Arundel, clerk, of the next presentation to the Rectory of the College of Slapton* in the diocese of Exeter, then in the hands of the Crown by the non-age of Henry,† Earl of Northumberland.

By the engrossing nature of affairs in France, Henry VII. was somewhat in danger of neglecting matters which demanded his immediate attention in Scotland, the nobles being there in rebellion. Accordingly, we find that on the 18th of March, 1492, Christopher Urswyk, dean of York and the king's counsellor, is despatched to that country to receive from King James the ratification of a treaty of peace with England, to remain in force until the 29th of November in the same year.‡

On the 30th of October he is again one of the ambassadors to the king of France, now to obtain a confirmation from

* Slapton, Kingsbridge, Dartmouth, Devonshire.

† Young Henry Percy was a ward of the Crown.

‡ Signed at Coldstream in Scotland, county of Berwick.

Charles of a treaty of peace with the king of England, until the death of the last survivor, Maximilian, king of the Romans, and his son Philip, Archduke of Austria, to be included in the treaty if they desired it. The other ambassadors were Richard, bishop of Bath and Wells, keeper of the Privy Seal; Sir Giles Dawbeney, knight of the Garter, and lord-lieutenant of Calais; Henry Aynesworth, doctor of Laws, and James Tyrel, lieutenant of Guisnes. This treaty was signed on the 3rd of November, 1492, at Estaples.*

To Urswick's numerous offices and functions was added that of *Registrar of the noble order of the Garter*, and in that capacity we find him, together with Sir Humphrey Talbot, marshal of Calais, and also the York herald, commissioned to confer that honour on Alphonso, eldest son of the king of Sicily, duke of Calabria, on the 5th of March, 1493.

On the 21st of the same month he was appointed Prebendary of Bottivant in the church of York, and in the same year he was made *Archdeacon of Richmond* in Yorkshire. We learn from the historians, Whitaker and Longstaffe, that his arms of three lozenges on a bend, with a crescent for difference, may be seen on the stained glass, removed to the great east window of St. Mary's church, Richmond, and also on the outside of the tower. The "crescent for difference" appears to have been the indication that he was a younger, or second, son.

On the 23rd of April, 1493, he was again ambassador to

* Estaples, or Etaples, a seaport, 11 miles south of Boulogne.

King James of Scotland, accompanied by the bishop of St. Asaph, Lord Graystock, and others, on a mission to prorogue the truce which had been made with Henry at Coldstream.

On the 19th of May Alphonso sends a dispatch to Christopher Urswyk, dean of York, and his colleagues, acknowledging receipt of the order of the Garter.

On the 13th of June Urswick, as dean of York, and John de Gilyls, archdeacon of Gloucester, send a notaried attestation to Pope Alexander the sixth, requesting him to excommunicate whichever party should first violate the treaty of Estaples; to which the pope replied that "he would wait for a similar request from the French king." On the 17th of that same month of June safe conduct is demanded for the said dean of York, again accompanied by Richard, bishop of St. Asaph, and also by John Cartington and Edward Ratcliff, esquires, to treat with the Scottish commissioners for redress of certain injuries.

In the month of June in the following year Urswick resigned the deanery of York, and was succeeded by William Sheffield.

On the 20th of November, 1495,* he was elected *Dean of Windsor*, and the completion of St. George's Chapel was in a great measure carried out under his guidance and that of Sir Reginald Bray; thus their arms frequently occur upon the

* On the 5th of March in this year also we find that Urswick was by proxy admitted to the Archdeaconry of Huntingdon, which he resigned a month after, viz., the 28th April, 1496, in favour of William Warham.

roof of that building, those of Sir Reginald being "Argent, a chevron between three eagles, legs erased, armed gules."

At Windsor Christopher Urswick has left his mark, for he was resident there over ten years. The Deanery was rebuilt by him, and high up in the outside wall looking upon the little garden, but covered now by a creeper, are the arms of Henry VII., with the inscription underneath: *Christophero Urswick, Decano*, 1500. A chapel in the north-west corner of St. George's Chapel still retains the name of the "Urswick Chapel," though it was appropriated in 1818 for the cenotaph of the princess Charlotte, erected by national subscription. The stone screen, which divided Urswick chapel from the nave, was then removed, and now stands between two adjoining pillars of the choir in the south aisle. The arms of Henry VII. are upon the screen, with an inscription, partly in Latin, to the following effect:—

"Pray for the souls of King Henry VII. and Christofyr Urswick, sometime lord Almoner to the King and Dean of this Chapel. Hail Mary! and blessed be thy holy mother Anne, from whom thy most pure virgin flesh issued without stain, Amen. God have mercy on the souls of King Harry the Seventh, and Christofyr Urswick, and all Christian souls, Amen. O God, who by thy only begotten Son didst redeem mankind, being incarnate of the Virgin's womb, and having suffered death, deliver, we beseech thee, the souls of Henry VII., and Christofyr, and all those whom Christofyr offended during life, from eternal death, and bring them to eternal life! Amen. God have mercy on the souls," etc.

The late Dean Wellesley recognized the honour due to the memory of Christopher by giving him a prominent place, among the eminent persons connected with St. George's

Chapel, in the blank window of the ALBERT CHAPEL over the entrance door, executed in enamel mosaics. Urswick is represented a life-size figure in his robes of office, in the centre of the first tier, side by side with Cardinal Wolsey.

Erasmus tells a good story which he had from Urswick regarding the king about this time. Henry had been for some time in a declining state of health, and this had encouraged a saucy astrologer to foretell his death, and that it should happen before the year expired. The wise king had more mind to expose him than to punish him. So he sent to the man, and talked friendly with him, seeming not to know anything of his insolent prophecy. The king gravely asked him whether any future events could be foretold by the stars; "Yes, Sir" (says the man) "without all doubt." "Well, have you any skill in the art of foretelling? The man affirmed that he had very good skill. "Come then," says the king, "tell me where you are to be in the Christmas holidays that are now coming." The man faltered at first, and then plainly confessed he could not tell where. "Oh!" says the king, "I am a better astrologer than you. I can tell where you will be,—in the tower of London," and accordingly commanded him to be committed a prisoner thither. And when he had lain there till his spirit of divination was a little cooled, the king ordered him to be dismissed for a silly fellow.

On the 5th of January, 1496, Urswick resigned the Rectory of Bradwell-juxta-Mare, to which he had been appointed in

November, 1488, and which was now in the gift and patronage of Sir Reginald Bray, having formerly been as already mentioned, in that of Sir Giles Daubigny. Edmund Latham, A.M., was presented to the living in the place of Urswick, who, on the 24th of the next month, viz., February, was commissioned to treat with Philip, Archduke of Austria, and Duke of Burgundy, for peace and mercantile intercourse between him and King Henry. Urswick's colleagues on this occasion were Richard Dunholme, keeper of the Privy Seal; Lord Wells; John Kendall, prior of St. John's of Jerusalem; William Warham, doctor of Laws, master of the Rolls; and John Risley, knight.

No reader of English History will require to be reminded of the difficult part which our king had here to perform in endeavouring to quell or even to mitigate the hostility of the house of Austria, nor how that the duchess of Burgundy had been ever ready to offer a refuge at her court in Flanders to any nobles who rebelled against him, and had even now but lately (1497) made a sickly attempt to dethrone him by instituting, promoting, and encouraging the Flemish counterfeit and pretender, Perkin Warbeck. The treaty of commerce above-mentioned was made at Philip's own request, however. His father Maximilian had relinquished in his favour, although not yet of age, the government of the Low Countries, and this treaty, or rather the renewal of a former one, was advantageous to both English and Flemings alike.

By one of the articles therein set forth, "Philip engaged to hinder the

duchess dowager of Burgundy from giving shelter or protection to the rebellious subjects of the king"; and by another article, "that a vessel belonging to the subjects of either prince, being shipwrecked on the coast of England or on that of the Low Countries, should not be liable to confiscation, provided a man, a dog, a cat, or a cock, remained alive on board."*

The king despatched another embassy to Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain towards the close of 1496, and it is possible that Urswick was engaged therein; but we have failed to find a note of it, or any mention of his name during the succeeding year, which was eventful by the rising of the Cornish men, in resentment of a heavy subsidy which the king was levying in supposed anticipation of war with Scotland. The king's ministers Morton and Bray were considered to be the cause of their being thus taxed, and were accordingly violently denounced.

On the death of James Goldwell, bishop of Norwich, which happened on the 15th of February, 1498, having been consecrated the 4th of October, 1472, that honourable preferment was offered to Christopher Urswick, and he refused it. This is attributed by some writers to his disregard of high honours, and longing for retirement, but there were, no doubt, deeper motives for his declining. The diocese of Norwich was notorious for its persecutions of Lollards, and Christopher was too mild a man for a bishop in those days. The office was refilled at the commencement of the year 1499 by Thomas Jan, or Janne. And in that same year we have

* Smollett, *History of England*, quoting Rymer.

an example of the persecutions above-named, and which is mentioned by Blomefield in his History of Norfolk, viz., that in July, 1499, "one Babram, a constant martyr of Jesus Christ, was burnt in Norfolk."*

By a charter,† dated the 26th of November in this same year, "An obligation" or debt to the amount of £30, is shewn to have been conjointly contracted by Edward Stanley,‡ knight, and one John Nabber, rector of Bury in Lancashire, to Master Christopher Urswick, clerk, archdeacon of Richmond. The object or nature of this obligation does not then appear, but the letter written by the lawyer, Mr. Lawrence Starkey, to Thomas Cromwell four years after Urswick's death, suggests doubts as to whether the debt was ever liquidated, although Mr. Starkey, being in trouble about it, asserts that it had been paid eighteen years before Urswick's decease, and then it is shewn to have been a question of lease or rental of the farm of one of his numerous benefices. He seems to have lacked friends in the north who would protect him from an unfair disposition of his properties there, as we may gather from his letter to Lord Darcy, written shortly before his death.

On the 3rd of December, 1500, Urswick resigned the office of Archdeacon of Richmond, and was succeeded by James,

* See Fox, *Acts and Monuments* (Townsend Ed.), IV. 8.

† Harleian Catalogue, vol. 3, 56 E. 14.

‡ Son of Thomas, Lord Stanley, 1st Earl of Derby, whose wife Margaret, countess of Richmond, was Urswick's patroness. Edward was after the battle of Flodden made Lord Monteagle.

son of Thomas, and brother of Edward Stanley, above mentioned. On the 14th June, 1501, he was re-appointed to the prebend of Lincoln, on the resignation of Isham, and was succeeded on the 8th April, 1511, by William Grey, arch-deacon of Berks.

Upon the resignation of John Forster, Christopher was on the 5th of November, 1502, inducted to the living of HACKNEY, and henceforth until his death he enjoyed comparative rest, physically, at least; but his mind and pen were active still, engaged in diplomatic correspondence. That he did not neglect his duties as a rector, is evident from the good name which he earned, and which has been perpetuated on his memorial brass.

It was probably during his brief sojourn in Flanders on the most important mission of his life in the year 1483, viz., when on behalf of Margaret, countess of Richmond, he was aiding to pave the way for her son the Earl Henry to the throne of England, that he first made the acquaintance of the then humble man of letters, ERASMUS, who became so famous for the reformatory doctrines which he so fearlessly and eloquently propounded in his works. It was said of him that "he laid the eggs which Luther hatched"; yet he was but an infant in Protestantism, though a sage in learning. In the year following that in which Urswick was appointed to the rectory of "the retired village of Hackney," Erasmus writes to him from the castle of Hamme, near Calais, where he was then staying on a visit on his way to this country,

and encloses a translation of Lucian's Dialogue called *Somnium, sive Gallus*, addressed to "that eminent scholar and statesman, Dr. Christopher Ursewicke."

Ornatissimo viro D. CHRIST. URSEWICO DES. ERASMUS ROT. S.D. Equidem hac mente semper fui, ornatissime idemque humanissime CHRISTOPHORE, ut ab nullo prorsum vitio perinde abhorreuerim atque ab ingratitude nec usquam istos hominis vocabulo dignos iudicarem, qui alieni in se meriti tempore ullo possent obliuisci. Rursus eos existimauerim beatos, quibus tantum facultatis fortunae commoditas, suppeditasset, ut bene de se meritis possent parem remeliri gratiam; beatissimos autem quibus licuisset acceptum beneficium aliquo cum foenore rependere.

*Proinde cum antehac saepenumero mecum repeterem quantum in me nihil promeritum tua benignitas contulisset,—illud denique mihi in mentem venit ut saltem istos quosdam inurbanos homines imitarer, qui flosculo quodam insigni aut alio simili symbolo misso voluntatis propensionem, promptique animi studium testificari solent: praesertim si tenues erga eos quibus neque res neque animus sit alienorum egens munerum. Ergo Graecanica ingredienti μουσεία (nam musarum horti vel mediis vernant brumis) statim inter multos varia ablandientes gratia hic LUCIANI flosculus praeter caeteros arrisit. Eum non ungue sed calamo decerptum ad te mitto, non solum novitate gratum, colore varium, specie venustum. Nec odore modo fragrantem, verum etiam succo praesentaneo salubrem, et efficacem, etc. Quem uti legas attentius te majorem in modum rogo, si quando tibi per tua licebat negotia frontem exporrigere.—Audies enim GALLUM cum hero sutore confabulantem magis redicule quam ullus possit γελοιοποιῶς, sed rursus sapientius quam Theologorum ac Philosopharum vulgus nonnunquam in scholi, magno supercilio magnis de nugis disputat. Vale optime atque humanissime CHRISTOPHORE, et ERASMUM inter tuos ascribito clientulos amore, studio, officio cessurum nemini. Ex Arce HAMMENSEI anno 1503.**

Erasmus speaks of his great obligations to Urswick, and "how willing he was to be grateful if it were more in his power to be; his only comfort being that meaner persons than himself had been permitted to present a flower or any such trifle to persons of the highest condition, to whom it was

* Given by Dr. Samuel Knight in his *Life of Erasmus*, pp. 73-75.

more acceptable than a present of greater value. That therefore lately entering into the gardens of Greece, he had picked a flower of Lucian, very beautiful, as he thought, and had now sent it as a little token to him, not only as a grateful novelty, but of a colour, smell, and taste agreeable to a man of such distinguishing sense. Erasmus commends the author of it for being a derider of the vulgar philosophy and vulgar religion, from whence he had had the name of Atheist cast upon him by wicked and superstitious men. Erasmus desires Urswick to read over this dialogue with some attention, if his public business would give him time; for he would here find things, though seemingly ludicrous, told in such a pleasant way, as nothing could more effectually divert him, and yet with so much morality and wisdom intermixed as it exceeded the common disputations of the schools, where there was only a dull wrangling for nothing. The dedicatory letter ends thus:—"Farewell, my best and kindest Christopher, and write down Erasmus among the number of your inferior clients, inferior to none of them in affection, respect, and duty. From the castle of Hamme, 1503."

It is evident from this letter that Erasmus had already received great kindness and important help from Christopher Urswick, and that true respect and gratitude prompted the expressions of esteem and love. In the Latin these are natural, but when translated there seems a shade of flattery not entirely pleasing, and not completely realized in the jaunty way in which Erasmus afterwards speaks of Urswick in a letter to his friend Ammonius some few years later; but he may be excused of any small amount of insincerity, on the grounds that he was now about to sojourn in England in order to earn a reputation as a man of letters, and being poor, needed kind and influential friends. Erasmus eventually received many presents from his friends, viz., Fisher (bishop of Rochester), Fox, More, Dean Colet, Ammonius,

&c., Urswick being named in the list; yet the attachment of the latter to him was not an exceedingly warm one; indeed, Erasmus himself, in one of his letters, introduces the expression "If Ursewick is still friendly," as if he had some reason to be apprehensive on the point. The Rector of Hackney, as a sober-minded and deep-thinking man, was able to see, recognize, and deplore many existing evils and corruptions in the Church then established, yet he regarded with veneration many of its superstitions, such as prayers for the dead, pilgrimages, an undue reverence for the Virgin Mary, traditions not sanctioned by Holy Writ. Over many of these Erasmus was inclined to ride rough-shod. Luke Hall, writing of him, says, "with Erasmus the monks are an everlasting subject for ridicule," and then proceeds to quote his opinions upon that community:—

"They think" (says Erasmus) "that they give a very plain proof of their piety by having nothing to do with learning, so that they can scarcely ever read. Next, while in their churches, they bray out, like asses, the psalms which they count* indeed, but do not understand; they think that God listens well pleased to their melody. Some there are who make much of their filth and begging, bellowing for bread in front of our doors, and crowding in upon us everywhere in public-houses, in waggons, and passage boats, not without great loss to other beggars" (evidently one of Erasmus' jokes). "These very delightful men, who are remarkable only for their dirt, their ignorance, their clownish manners, and their impudence, pretend that they are the genuine successors of the Apostles."

In the dialogue dedicated by Erasmus to Christopher, the

* Count, cant, or sing,—hence canting, as a term of reproach, and "numbers" as applied to music or poetry.

cobbler Michullus, dreaming that he had become an heir to a millionaire, is suddenly awakened by the crowing of his cock, whom he threatens to kill as soon as he gets up. The cock discovers himself to be Pythagoras, and endeavours to persuade the cobbler that he is much happier than the rich men whom he envies. To convince him, he desires him to pluck one of the long feathers from his tail which has the power of conferring invisibility. The cobbler having plucked both the cock's feathers,—much to the cock's chagrin, which is very amusingly described,—they go together to the houses of several rich men, and behold their miseries and their vices. Whether the translation of the dialogue had anything to do in the matter, we cannot say; but it is a curious coincidence that, soon after the receipt of it, Urswick did retire from public life, resigned his public appointments, and took up his abode at Hackney, "near the city, but out of the bustle and noise of it."*

The first ten years of Urswick's life at Hackney seem to have been quiet and uneventful, with the exception that he was made Archdeacon of Oxford in 1504. In the year 1510 we find him, as already shewn, one of the principal witnesses to the charter which founded the order of especial services to be conducted at the church of Badsworth in memory of the Urswick family "for ever," at the bequest of his late kinswoman, Isabel Vavasour, daughter of Robert Urswick, of

* It should be noted that Elizabeth, Henry VIIth's wife died Feb. 11, 1503; Henry VII. died April 22, 1509.

Badsworth;—Christopher's old master, Henry VII., had been laid in his grave, and a more warlike monarch reigned in his stead. Soon there came the memorable battle of Flodden field, fought in the year 1513, when Sir William Molineux, of Sephton, Sir Edward Norris, of Speke, and Sir Richard Assheton, of Middleton, greatly distinguished themselves under the command of Sir Edward Stanley; and although, in the wholesale carnage which then ensued, the fate of lesser knights has been disregarded in history, it is probable that some of the Urswick family mingled in the fray, more especially as we learn from Gregson, in his *Fragments of Lancashire*, that their arms are depicted, as well as those of the Harringtons, in the windows of the great baronial hall of Speke, Childwall, near Liverpool. Also the alliance of the Urswicks with the names of Molineux, Assheton, and Southworth (for Sir Thomas Southworth was one of the heroes of that fight) and their quarterings with the Asshetons and other distinguished families will equally suggest the improbability of their having been absent when the king

“ For the Earl of Surrey sent,
“ And Regent of the North him made,
“ And bade him if the Scots were bent,
“ The northern borders to invade,
“ That he should raise a royal band
“ In Bishoprick and in Yorkshire,
“ In Westmoreland and Cumberland,
“ In Cheshire and in Lancashire.”

There were slain at this battle, on the side of the Scots, 12 earls, 13 lords, and five eldest sons of peers.

Our worthy rector of Hackney, whose life and labours had been devoted to such very different ends, must have been saddened at these tales of bloodshed. On the 15th of June in that eventful year, 1513, he had, together with one Robert Cressy, received a grant of the next presentation to a prebend and canonry in the collegiate chapel of St. Stephen's, Westminster; issued at the king's palace at Greenwich on the day above-named, and delivered at the court of Westminster on the 9th of July following. And

On the 4th of September, viz., only five days before the great battle in the north, he was one of those legally appointed to carry out the provisions of the will of his late patroness, the countess of Richmond, with regard to her estates in Lancashire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridge, Essex, Lincoln, Somerset, and Cardigan, with the issues of which, if we rightly understand the document, she had endowed the deanery and canonry of St. George's, Windsor. Engaged in the same service were Sir John Ferreux, chief justice of the king's bench; Robert Rede, chief justice of the common pleas; Robert Brudnell, justice of the king's bench; Sir Thomas Lovell, Sir Thomas Englefield, Sir Robert Southwell, Sir John Cutt, and John Heron.

It will readily be supposed that a man of Urswick's character would be considered by his friends a desirable executor. We have an instance of this in the case of the now deceased Sir Robert Southwell above-mentioned, who was chief butler of England, also surveyor and approver of castles, lordships, etc., in England, Wales, and Calais; he left a widow, Elizabeth

Southwell, his executrix, and Christopher Urswick, archdeacon of Oxford, Robert Southwell, his son, and William Wutton, co-executors. But the king appears for some cause to have overruled the testament of the late Sir Robert, and changed the disposition of his property, for he gives on the 29th of May, 1514, a royal pardon and release to the said widow and her co-executors. Probably that which follows on the 21st of June, refers to the same subject, when Christopher Urswick, clerk, and six knights and squires are pardoned for the alienation of manors and estates in Bucks, Norfolk, Suffolk, and other counties, and the issues of these estates are granted to Charles, Earl of Worcester. Sir Robert Southwell held many offices besides those above-mentioned, as auditor and receiver of the honours of "Clare and Gloucester," in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs, Huntingdon, Essex, and Hertford, and of lands belonging to the estates of Lord FitzWalter in same county, also receiver for the lands in the same counties, which belonged to the duchy of York; farmer of lands called Disse and Hempnale in Norfolk, etc. We will form no rash or disloyal conjectures as to what these alienations or diversions of property might imply, the position of affairs being too obscurely represented, and motives unexplained, to form any judgment as to whether it was an instance of regal rapacity or a fair and just claim on the part of the Crown.

In the following year, viz., dated the 12th July, 1515, we find a charter by which Thomas Cheyne, armiger, and John Martyn, kinsman and heir of Robert Martyn, armiger, concede to Christopher Urswyk, clerk (or cleric), Robert Poynes, knight, Henry Wyatt, knight, Cuthbert Tunstall, clerk, John More, serjeant-at-law, Thomas More, gentleman, John Spylman, Richard Belamy, and Alan Horde, the manor of Leghe in the parish of Iden, near Rye, county of Sussex, to the use of Frideswide, wife of the said Thomas Cheyne, for the term of her life. Christopher Halys, William at Wode, and John Davy being attorneys appointed to release the said lands. Another example of the same charter, dated 5th October following, shews John Davy to be the only remaining constituted attorney.*

* Harleian Catalogue, 76 F. 16 and 17, vol. 5.

One of the presents which Erasmus received from Urswick, and probably by far the most valuable, as well as the most acceptable, for he was a great traveller, was that of a horse, of whose qualities he spoke very highly; but while deep in his books at Flanders, he neglected to give this animal proper exercise; from the combined effects of which and too much food and water in his stable, the poor beast died. Erasmus forthwith wrote to his friend the Rector, desiring a renewal of his favours; and although he in the meantime obtains a handsome white horse from his friend Ammonius, he does not cease to importune Urswick on the subject.

On this and other topics we gather from "State papers" a series of letters between Erasmus and his friends, viz., Ammonius, who was secretary for the Latin and Italian tongues to King Henry the 8th, and Sir Thomas More; also between Thomas Allen, a priest, and George Talbot, 4th earl of Shrewsbury, to whom Allen was probably chaplain or private secretary: and in all of these Urswick's name occurs. First we have on the 25th of February, 1516, a letter from Sir Thomas More to Erasmus, in the postscript of which More says that he has seen Urswick, who "acknowledges that he has not forgotten the horse." On the 22nd of April Erasmus writes from Rochester, where he is staying on a visit to Bishop Fisher,* to his friend Ammonius, and says that

* Fisher, bishop of Rochester, and Sir Thomas More, then lord Chancellor, were both beheaded in 1535, for refusing to acknowledge the king as supreme head of the Church.

“Fisher had persuaded him to spend ten days with him, and he had regretted it more than ten times; that he had hoped to wheedle Urswick out of a new horse, by sending him a New Testament,* but that Urswick was away, and so his ‘hunting’ had come to nought.” “His old horse,” he says, “had died of drink in Flanders. Will not leave before the end of the week. Had written to More on leaving home, and given him a copy of his work, *Epistola ad Leonem*, rather badly written.” Asks some service of Ammonius, the nature of which is not explained.

On receipt of this letter, Ammonius immediately sends his friend, as already mentioned, a beautiful white horse, which Erasmus acknowledges in his usual jocose style; for in this matter he somewhat resembled Sir Thomas More. “The servant John,” who brought the horse, “would have gained a beating, had not More stepped in to save him. For so soon as More heard that he was staying at Rochester, he had hastened to pay him a visit, as if he never expected to see him again.” Says that Ammonius is always “catching at occasions for making presents, and that he would have sent this one back if More had not dissuaded him.” “Is very much pleased with the handsome white horse, but would rather have played the thief with the archbishop of York, or Colet,† or Ursewick; from the latter he had,” he says, “been

* The famous edition of the Greek Testament with Latin translation and notes by Erasmus, completed in 1516.

† Dean Colet, founder of St. Paul’s School, dean of St. Paul’s.

promised a horse, and Ursewick would certainly keep his word." Finishes his letter with a Latin quotation, *Idque ad Calendas non Graecas sed Octobres*, and being shortly bound for Brabant, promises to write from there to York and Lancaster.

The next is from Thomas Allen, dated the 10th of May, from his home at Coldharbour (near Dorking), to the earl of Shrewsbury.—

"Had sent his lordship by Richard Woodhouse, the carrier, ten pasties of congers, the greatest and fattest he had ever seen." The pasties had been baked at his house by the earl's own servant, who was there on an errand from his master, and would have himself taken the pasties, but Allen preferred to entertain the man longer, and send them by carrier.

Says that he "spoke yesterday with Mr. Ursewick, who told him the following news, that Mr. Ponynge and Dr. Tunstall would come home in the course of the next week, and that then his lordship should know more; that on that day the earl of Northumberland was to be delivered out of the Fleet; that yesterday the ambassadors of Scotland had dined with my lord Cardinal, and in their company were the bishop of Ely, the prior of St. John's of Jerusalem, and the abbot of Westminster."

Mr. Allen then begs his lordship's leave to perform a pilgrimage to Canterbury, which he feels he owes for recovery from sickness, and more during the summer which he hopes with the earl's licence to undertake.

"This day" (says Mr. Allen, May 24th, 1516) "I trust to send towards Wingfield two tuns of wine; whereof four hogsheads are claret, viz., two of red, and one of white wine; the other puncheon fresh wine. If it be well carried, I trust your lordship will like it well. It will cost £5 6s. 8d. the tun; whereof the wains must have for their labour 20 shillings."

"Mr. Urswick had spoken with my lord of Northumberland,* who

* Henry Algernon Percy, 5th earl of Northumberland. Some of the Urswick family bore the Percy badge or crest, showing they were partizans of that house. See Harleian MSS. 2076, folio 796, viz., "a lion statant on a cap of maintenance," surmounting the Urswick shield of "three lozenges on a bend."

remains in the same mind, and prays the earl of Shrewsbury to appoint a day for the pilgrimage."

"A question had been put by Sir William Compton and others to the earl of Northumberland respecting the marriage of his son, to which the earl had replied, 'I have concluded with my lord of Shrewsbury.' Also the earl had been desired to bring his son to the court, and had answered, 'When he is better learned, and well acquainted with his *wife*, shortly after he shall come to court.' This communication piques him more heartily forward than ever." These short but pithy sentences require explanation. They refer to the betrothal of Lady Mary, daughter of George Talbot, earl of Shrewsbury, to the young Henry Percy here mentioned, and when Northumberland speaks of his son's better acquaintance with his *wife*, he implies the future wife whom he and Talbot had determined upon for him. But young Henry was somewhat contumacious on this point, and the marriage did not take place until some years after, when it was hastily consummated on account of his unfortunate attachment to Anne Boleyn. Young Percy was in the household of Cardinal Wolsey, and that prelate had to use all his influence and powers of persuasion to induce him not to incur the displeasure of the king, as well as that of his own father, by pursuing an object so hopelessly unattainable. He was rewarded by his father the earl for his ultimate obedience in this matter by a tenure of the castle of Alnwick, but it gave him no pleasure, and his union with Lady Mary proved a most unhappy one. He lived only ten or twelve years after its consummation, dying at Hackney in the prime of life, having been employed in the arrest of Cardinal Wolsey at Cawood Castle, and having had to sit as one of the judges at the trial of Mistress Anne; so that "his whole life was a pitiable tragedy."*

We now come to another letter from Allen to the earl, dated the 28th of the same month as the foregoing, in which in one place he says, "Mr. Urswick sends by the bearer,

* *Monuments of Hackney Church*, by W. Simpson.

Thomas Agard, ten pasties of baken conger," and further on, "Urswick says the prince of Castile comes not here this year." And three days later, he again writes saying that he "was with Master Comptroller Ponyngs and Master Urswick yesternight," (and learned) "that a bill had been made by the council, waiting the king's signature, commanding the earl's attendance at court"; "has heard nothing of it yet from the Cardinal, a great friend of your lordship's."

"Encloses copy of a letter sent to the Cardinal out of Italy, which Mr. Urswick desires, after the sight thereof, your lordship will break or burn."

"Urswick wonders the earl does not appoint a day for the pilgrimage to Doncaster. As knoweth our Lord, who ever hath your lordship in his blessed governance."

Allen* writes again on the 8th of June, enclosing a letter from Urswick, and adding his advice to that of the Cardinal, with whom he had had an interview, that the earl, if well enough, should come to court as "it is the king's pleasure to have my lord here, and nigh about him. If he does not intend to come, thinks he had better write an excuse to the king, as well as to the Cardinal and other friends; fears, however, that the Cardinal will not make the best excuse for him, being very desirous of his company."

On the 5th of July in that same year, 1516, URSWICK, with

* Cardinal Allen was in the year 1511 sent on an embassy to Rome by the Archbishop of Canterbury, but was not very successful in his management, and was recalled. See Knight's *Life of Erasmus*, p. 128.

the Duke of Norfolk, the Earl of Surrey, Sir Thomas Lovell, and two and twenty others, were appointed commissioners of sewers in the counties of Middlesex, Essex, and Herts, for the district extending from the town of Ware, up the river Thames, and along the banks thereof.

In August, Erasmus being then on a visit to Sir Thomas More at his house at Chelsea, again writes to his friend Ammonius. It was the hunting season apparently, for he says, "he hopes the hunting may prove as fortunate to Ammonius as it has proved unfortunate to himself. It carried away the king, then the Cardinal. He had angled for Urswick by sending him a New Testament, and asked for the horse he had promised; but finds, on calling to see him on Monday, that he also had gone hunting, and would not be back for a week. Thynne slips off in the same way, and now Ammonius. Begs him to open the letter intended for the pope, and have it recopied. Hopes for success in their project. Might possibly stay in England a few days waiting for the horse from Urswick, were he not tired of this country, and felt that he was a stale guest to More's wife." "*Sentirem me vetulum jam hospitem uzori Moricæ suppeterē.*"*

On leaving England, Erasmus wrote to his late host, Sir Thomas; and on the 31st of October he received More's reply, to the effect that he was late in answering, as he had been desirous of learning something from Urswick about the

* This letter is dated 1511 in the collected Epistles to or from Erasmus (part I., 117, 126), its real date was probably in the year 1513.

horse, but had been unsuccessful, Urswick being away at a court of his. Erasmus would find the money all right.*

"The letters which they had both written to Latimer begging him to stay a month or so with the bishop of Rochester, had arrived too late, for Latimer had already resolved to go to Oxford, and could not be persuaded to defer his visit. Was much pleased with the version of the New Testament, but thinks Erasmus has been needlessly scrupulous, and should not have retained such words as *Sabbatum* or any unclassical expression. Regrets to say that there are some here who have determined to read the writings of Erasmus with a very different intention (to his own), and conjures him not to be hasty to publish, and carefully to avoid all occasion of giving offence." "Are you not," More says, "horribly afraid? Chief of the conspirators is a Franciscan, of whom you made such honourable mention† in your edition of 'St. Jerome.' He and others of his order agreed together over their cups to divide the works among them, and read them carefully, but not to understand them; for in the morning they had forgotten their purpose, and fell to begging, which they understood much better. The *Epistola obscurorum vivorum* is popular everywhere. Is glad that Peter likes his *Nusquama*,‡ and wishes to hear whether Tunstall and other judges approve of it. Has succeeded in obtaining more favourable terms from Maruffo, publisher." Dated London, 31st October, 1516.

More writes again to Erasmus in the month of January following, 1516-7, saying that "he has received his letter, written at Calais, informing him of his prosperous voyage,

* Money received by More on behalf of Erasmus for the publication of some works of the latter. Or money received for him from Urswick. *Erasmus Epistolae*, part I., 126. The date given is 1513.

† Ironically spoken. It was the friar who preached against Jerome, and was the means of bringing that good and holy man to the stake.

‡ *Utopia*, by Sir Thomas More. He calls Erasmus "Peter," jokingly. It was one Peter who drove Erasmus into a convent against his will in his early days. His grandfather's name was also Peter.

and that he hears from the provost of Cassell that ere he left home Erasmus had got safe to Brussels. Maruffo grumbles that he has been a loser by the money paid to Erasmus. Has sent a bill for £20 more from the Archbishop. The bearer will pay to Agidius the £20, left in his (More's) hands by Erasmus. URSWICK will take care he shall soon have a horse. Had sent his *Utopia* (to the publisher) some time since, and was delighted to hear it will come out in a magnificent form."*

It appears that Erasmus had before this received another horse from Christopher, for on the 5th of June he writes to Urswick, saying that "his genius of a horse has carried him safely backwards and forwards to Basle, a long and perilous journey; that he has visited so many Universities that now he is as wise as Homer's Ulysses,

Mores hominum multorum vidit et urbes.

That while he has grown as lean as a rake by hard study during several months' stay at Basle, his horse has had nothing to do, and has grown so fat that he can scarcely enter his stable. Doubts not that Urswick has seen the New Testament (Erasmus must mean *perused*, for he must have received the presentation copy). *St. Jerome* will soon appear, together with his work, *De principis instituone*," etc.

The symptoms of obesity in the animal seem to have proved fatal, for we find Urswick's kindness is again appealed to. In August More writes from London to Erasmus, and

* Brewer, State Papers, Henry VIII., II. part 2, p. 913 (2842).

tells him that "he has spoken to Urrswick about the horse, but he has none fit to send at present." On the 5th of March, 1517-8, Erasmus writes to More, and says, "*If Urrswick is still friendly*, More may urge him to send Erasmus a horse, as he must go to Basle or Venice to edit his New Testament, and then proposes to take leave of authorship." In another letter written in the same month, from Louvaine, he remarks, "Urrswick a year ago promised me a horse, and on that expectation I gave him a New Testament."* Whether Urrswick was able to execute this third commission for his friend, is very doubtful, as he was now in the seventy-first year of his age, and his health apparently failing.

On June 5th, 1517, Erasmus writes from St. Omer to Urrswick thus:—

Quatuor Hieronymi volumina misi Archiepiscopo CANTAURIENSI per hunc PETRUM unoculum, tuum alumnum, quem offendi sic incumbentem scribendis libris, ut se laboribus propemodum confecerit. Opinor homini fatum instare, qui tam sui dissimilis sit factus. Quin et abstemius propemodum est redditus, et vini osor, atque hinc pallor insolitus. Tuorum in me beneficiorum semper meminero, quicumque me terrarum angulus est habiturus. Bene Vale. Apud divum Audomarum, 5 Junii, 1517. See Erasmus' Epistolae, part 1, 255D.

"I have sent to the Archbishop of Canterbury† four volumes of Jerome

* In the year 1519 died Thomas Urrswick, of Ulverston, and his uncle Christopher became his next male heir.

† "Archbishop Warham was one of Erasmus his best and most extraordinary friends and benefactors. Soon after Cranmer's appointment More wrote to Erasmus that he who filled the see of Canterbury bore no less love to him than Warham had done before, and there was no man living that loved him better. And Erasmus mentioning his great loss in Archbishop Warham and divers other patrons of his that were taken off by death, comforted himself that God had made up those losses to him by raising him up other friends." Strype's *Cranmer*, 8vo. ed., p. 576. Peter, Urrswick's *alumnum*, was possibly Erasmus himself.

by the one-eyed Peter your protégé, whom I have found so devoting himself to writing books, that he has well nigh killed himself with study. I think some fate is threatening the man, he has become so altered, almost a total abstainer from food, a hater of wine, and hence uncommonly pale. I SHALL EVER BE MINDFUL OF YOUR KINDNESSES TOWARDS ME, IN WHATEVER CORNER OF THE WORLD MY LOT MAY BE CAST. Farewell. At St. Omer, June 5th, 1517."

On the 17th of July Thomas Allen forwards three letters of news from Urswick to the earl of Shrewsbury, but being on matters of a diplomatic nature, their contents are not made known. It is very evident that Urswick entertained a deep regard for George Talbot, and furnished him with forewarnings which may have induced forearmings. A long letter of domestic news and court gossip from Allen to the earl, accompanies the enclosure of Urswick's letters, but they are not of sufficient interest to be added here.

The following letter written by Christopher Urswick, rector, to Thomas Goldstone, prior of Christ Church (viz., the cathedral) of Canterbury, bears no date; but it is clear from the tenour of it that the appropriation of Church property was its main subject; and as the accession of King Henry the 8th was in 1509,—Thomas Goldstone being prior of Canterbury from 1494 to 1517,—we may conclude that it was towards the expiration of his appointment, circ. 1516, that he received this epistle.

"Christopher Urswick, Rector, to the reverend father in Christ Sir Thomas Goldstone, prior of Christ Church, Canterbury, sendeth greeting.*

"Herewith, most religious Sir, you have the letter of Celsus Veronensis

* B.M., Additional MSS., 15, 673, folio 113.

to the Venetians, dissuading them by many arguments and examples against the usurpation of ecclesiastical property. I am not at all surprised that you have strongly desired to obtain a copy of it. For while it states with the greatest clearness and copiousness whatever can be said on the subject by the most learned, or reasoned by the most acute, you fill the second post of honour in that very church wherein, the pontiff the divine Thomas preferred to lay down his life, rather than survive ecclesiastical liberty. From this letter as from a fountain you may draw abundant material for argument, as often as you meet with the opponents of ecclesiastical liberty, who indeed (it is to be lamented) are very many everywhere.

“Moreover, by a certain alternation or vicissitude (as I think) of the times, it has come to pass that whereas formerly the Christian name was diffused far and wide throughout the world, it is now confined within narrow limits, and covers only the smallest tracts. So that even in those provinces which still retain the Christian name, all is degenerating, and reverence for sacerdotal dignity is far less than it was with our ancestors; a fact which you may easily detect if you compare the men of our age with their predecessors. To wit, they so venerated the priesthood that many of them while living dedicated a large portion of their patrimony to priests and priestly offices; and when dying wished to leave no other heirs than churches. How many temples everywhere in the world were built by men of past generations in honour of God; how many sacred edifices may you see in every country endowed by them with most abundant possessions, the clearest sign, surely, of august and ancient piety. But in our age we have sunk so low that not only do churches no longer expect anything to be given to them, but they consider it is very well indeed if nothing be taken away from them; instead of the old liberality, we have, on the part of most, detestable rapacity, nay rather sacrilege. And yet they who dare such things contend that they are acting rightly; and straightway speak recklessly of the corrupt morals of the clergy and their open vices, as if the censorship of others belonged to them. Thus they demand of us the ancient integrity of life, the ancient sanctity of manners; but consider whether we may not far more fairly

demand from them a just judgment concerning us. Consider, I ask you, if any one,—who, on account of the wickedness of this or that citizen, were to condemn as infamous the whole State, governed by the most equitable institutions,—would he be thought a fair judge? Yet this is just what these persons now are doing. Discovering the crimes of a few, they forthwith denounce the entire flock of clergy to be flagitious; thus shewing their ignorance of human life and society, wherein no multitude or class is without a criminal. How much fairer were their predecessors! for if any one contend that there were no vicious clergy in that age, he may easily be convinced by the decrees of the Holy Fathers most severely coercing the vices of the clergy. But our ancestors did not think that all the clergy were therefore to be held in hatred, nor that the residue of good clergy were to be had in less esteem, or to be supported with less liberality. Now, indeed, if you inveigh vehemently against the vices of men the one cry of all, the one reply is, that the clergy do the same! With this as their defence, men think themselves secure; as if forsooth the worst things were not to be condemned, but rather to be imitated. Satisfied with this mention of the crimes of others, they neither amend themselves, nor desist from speaking and thinking evil of all clerics on account of the sins of some.

“This we might bear with equanimity, provided they dared nothing more criminal. But whatever is dedicated to God they esteem secular, and attempt to seize and to keep it as a thing taken from enemies in just war. Do men of this stamp, I ask, escape the guilt of sacrilege? Take and keep therefore, my dear Thomas, as a shield against them, this letter of the most religious Celsus, long asked for by you from me, and now at length transcribed, in which surely it is difficult to say, whether the style excels the matter, or the matter the style. And as it has been highly commended by two most learned men of our age, Hermolaus Barbarus and Domitius Veronensis, I have thought that their letters, in which they speak of it with extraordinary praise, should be annexed, that you may the better test your own judgment, and may be stirred more eagerly to its perusal. Farewell.”

Thomas Goldstone was a man of great learning, and much

in favour with Henry VII., who sent him as ambassador to the French king ; but his memory is still more lasting for the new buildings and other reparations which he made in and about Canterbury Cathedral, of which he was prior from 1494 to 1517.*

The manuscript in the British Museum seems to be the very copy which Urswick sent. It contains, immediately before this letter of Urswick's, the letter or treatise of Maffaeus Celsus Veronensis thus entitled: "*Celsi Veronensis Canonici regularis Lateranensis congregationis Dissuasoria ne Christiani principes ecclesiasticos usurpant census; ad inclytum Venetorum senatum*, 1471." And before this again in the same volume are the letters commendatory which Urswick names. There is a copy of this work of Maffaeus Celsus Veronensis in print but unpagged,† and the initial letters unsupplied: indicating secrecy of printing and probably suppression by the English authorities. The document is very interesting as bearing upon the times when the storm was brewing which at length broke in all its fury over England in the dissolution of the monasteries; and the proceedings of King Henry the 8th are in Urswick's letter clearly pointed at.

On the 29th of December, 1520, Urswick writes from Hackney to the earl of Shrewsbury in language too guarded to convey any meaning to the uninitiated, viz., that he

"Finds divers things to his comfort in the Earl's letter, received this St.

* Hasted's *History of Kent*, IV. 556.

† B.M. Library, Press Mark 1412, d. 26.

Thomas' day, by the bearer. First for the gentleman of the north country that hath been with you, and the cause of his coming and the likelihood of the good success thereof. Holds as good an opinion as ever of our old matter. Considering the nature of the party, if it be wisely handled, sees no way but by the man mentioned by his lordship, who must be won by the same means as all his profession. It had better be broken to him by the Earl than by my lady. Begs the Earl to pardon this letter, howsoever it is written, for peradventure," he says, "my mind is not so stable as it hath been, now after my great sickness. I thought myself within these fourteen days as near my death as ever I did, sith I had knowledge and remembrance; but by the help of God and good Master Frawncis, I am passed all danger."*

Thus the Rector spoke of his declining health; and on the 30th of June in the year following, 1521, only nine months before his decease, he addressed the following epistle to Lord Darcy in the north:—

"My dewty in the most humble wise remembered. It wolle please your good lordship to understand that as whereon John Halley, father to one Edward Halley, now being in his age, was seized of me in certain lands and tenements to the yearly value of xlvii.s. by year, in the cownte of York to the same held of me as of my manor of Baddesworth by knyghtley service, by reason of which noneage of the said Edward Halley, I was possessed of the said lands so holden of me for the space of five years, till that now of late one James Rawson and Christopher Bradford of their conseizing [conspiracy] together have, without color or title, wrongfully put me forth of the same; of the which matter your lordship hath been troubled and taken pains for and in behalf, wherein I am bound to yield you my service. So it is that the king's grace has granted his gracious letter of commission to be directed to your worshippe and others for the hearing and determination of the said wrongs and misdemeanours so committed and done to me

* Shrewsbury MSS., A. 59 (2), Herald's Coll.

by the said James Rawson and Christopher Bradford, wherein I shall beseech your lordship to take further pains in executing the tenour and effects of the said commission according to right and good consequence, so that in my age I may be out of trouble and business, and your lordshippe bind me to bear you any service and prayer. I leave, beseeching you to take credence to this bearer, my kinsman and deputy, William Banke,* for the said matter, who shall attend and wait upon you from time to time as shall please you to take for the hearing of the said matter by virtue of the said commission. And thus I beseech JESU to have your good lordshippe in His blessed keeping. From Hackney, the 30th day of June. From your daily beedsman, CHRISTOPHER URSWICK, to my right honorable lord, my Lord Darcy."†

There remains now nothing to be added to the records of Christopher Urswick, clerk (who held so numerous appointments, and died simple Rector of Hackney on the 24th of March in the year 1521, aged 74), except the purport of his last Will and Testament, and the place and method of his interment in the churchyard of the parish church of Hackney. Dr. Samuel Knight, in his *Life of Erasmus* (pp. 73 sqq.), calls Urswick "one of the most considerable men of that age for piety and learning." Erasmus survived Urswick fourteen years, dying at Basle, after much suffering both of body and mind, on the 4th of July, 1536.

The last Will and Testament of CHRISTOPHER URSWICK, dated the 10th of October, 1521, is preserved in the preroga-

* Banke, probably Baugh. Doctor Baugh was, like Urswick, one of the king's private almsgivers.

† Lord Darcy was executed on Tower Hill for his participation in the rebellion called *the Pilgrimage of Grace*, which preceded the dissolution of Furness Abbey.

tive court of Canterbury, and a copy of the same may be seen at the probate court in Somerset House, London :—

"Recommending his soul to God, his Creator, Maker, Saviour, and Redeemer of all the world; to the blessed Lady St. Mary the Virgin, his glorious Mother, and all the holy company of Heaven, he directs that he may be buried before the image of St. Austin, and requests that there may be no solemn dynner or dole made, and that his funeral charges are not to exceed 20 marks. He leaves to his old poor man that comes to him from Kentish Town, 6s. 8d.; to Richard Humphrey and his wife, each 5s.; to Lincoln the labourer, 3s. 4d.; to John Ilbery's mother-in-law, 3s. 4d.; to his gossip John Ilbery's wife's daughter, 3s. 4d.; to Johanna Chilman, widow, 3s. 4d.; to Widow Pares dwelling under the loft, 5s.; to the parish clerk's wife and children (if they still dwell there), 6s. 8d.; to John with a sore arm, 20s.; and to Sir Richard's mother, 5s.

"To the Priory of Hatfield Peverel for a *Dirige* and mass, 20s.

"To the Abbot and Convent of Bylegh beside Maldon for a *Dirige* and mass, 20s.

"To the Black Friars in Chelmsford, 40s.

"To the Chapel of our Lady of Walsingham, his vestment with both fronts, in his little closet above and beneath the altar.

"To Cuthbert Tunstall, master of the Rolls, his gown of black, furred with martron, his tippet of sarcenet, furred with sables, his little mule with saddle and bridle, and all his harness, and also his book of prayers beginning *Quoniam in medio laqueorum positi sumus*.

"To Sir John Barco, Priest and Vicar of Hackney, a black book written with pen which beginneth *Audistis quia dictum est antiquis*.

"To Nicholas Yrton and his wife, my two silver pottle pots, two pairs of sheets, a pair of blankets and a coverlet, two plain tableclothes, two plain towels, six plain napkins, two platters, four porringers, and four saucers, besides all such things as I have put them in possession of myself."

Referring again to John Ilbery, he says, "I bequeath to John Ylbery, my servant, six silver trenchers." And

"To the Abbey of Furness, the gilt cup that Sir Robert Southwell gave me, for a remembrance of the souls of my father and mother, sometime brother and sister of their chapter."*

Then follows the disposition of debts and rents due or falling due from the farmers of his several benefices, viz., those owing by David Moyle and Walter Burlas, gentlemen farmers of the parsonage of St. Newlyn in Cornwall (being a parcel of Urswick's chancellorship in the cathedral church of Exeter), to be divided into three parts: the one part to be devoted to the charity called "for the marriage of poor maidens"† within the parish above-named, and the other two parts to be disposed towards the "exhibition" of two poor scholars, viz., Christopher and William Hewster, or the longer liver of the two, and in the event of both dying before the money was expended, then to other scholars according to the discretion of the executors.‡

In like manner the debts of John Beer, farmer of the parsonage of Stoke Gabriel (another parcel of the aforesaid chancellorship), to be divided into two equal parts: the one part to be devoted to the charity above-named, and the other to the "exhibition" of Christopher Smyth ("*my godson*"), or otherwise to a brother of his, or failing that, to some other scholars.

Also the debts of John Lawrence, receiver of his prebend of Bedwyn in the cathedral church of Salisbury, to be divided into two equal parts: the one part to the "marriage of poor maidens" charity, and the other to the "exhibition" of poor scholars in Oxford and Cambridge.

Also the debts of the same John Lawrence, being also receiver of his archdeaconry of North Wiltshire, to be divided into two parts: the one part to "the charity" as established in the parish of Minety, and the other part to the said exhibition for both Universities.

Also the debts of Thomas A. Price, farmer of his parsonage of Ashbury

* Attached to the monastery were certain religious lay brethren, whose office was to cultivate the lands, and attend to the secular affairs of the monastic order. JOHN URSWICK was at Oxford in 1450.

† This charity is (or was only lately) still existing. ‡ Students of Oxford University.

(Berks) in the diocese of Salisbury, into two parts: the one part to the charity aforesaid, and the other to be expended in the "mending of highways" within that parish.

Also the debts of Sir Thomas Finnis, knt., being farmer of his parsonage of Felpham in the diocese of Chichester, into two parts: the one part to the same charity as existing in the parish of Felpham, and the other part to be delivered to his *nephew William Redman* towards the reparation of his (Urswick's) *school at Lancaster*.

Also the debts of Master John Canby, farmer of his pebend of Milton in the cathedral church of Lincoln, into two parts: the one part to the aforesaid charity, and the other to be delivered to William Redman to distribute at his discretion among the daughters of his (Urswick's) nephew John A. Burgh.

Also the debts of John Pynchester, farmer of his prebend of Chiswick in the cathedral church of St. Paul's in the city of London, to be wholly disposed towards the aforesaid charity, viz., for the "marriage of poor maidens."

Also the debts of John Curate, receiver and scribe of his archdeaconry of Norfolk, to be divided into two equal parts: the one part to the exhibition of poor scholars in Oxford and Cambridge, and the other part to remain to the use of his executors towards the performance of this his present testament and last will.

Also he wills that all such persons as shall enjoy any of his said bequests, shall be commanded to pray for the souls of Sir John Huddleston, knight, and Dame Jane his wife, for the soul of him, the said Christopher, and all Christian souls.

Also he wills that his executors sue the obligation of Sir William Sandys, knight, for the sum of twenty pounds, "wherein he stands bound";—"the which obligation (says Urswick) I have taken unto my nephew William Redman for 'the same (like) sum of money laid out by him at my desire in repairing and making up the Freres and School House within the town of Lancaster."

Also he continues, "I will that the great ring with the sapphire that I am

always wont to bear in my purse, be delivered to Master CUTHBERT TUNSTALL, for it is his own.*

"And I will that every one of my servants shall have half one year's wages (viz., at the annual rate which they had been receiving)."

Also he wills that all these premises be performed by his executors, if his goods, moveables, and debts will thereto extend, and if not, then according to their discretion.

Also he will have it known to all the world that he has no more of any man's goods in his keeping, nor debts to account for to his executors.

He appoints as his executors, his most trusty friend and lover, Master CUTHBERT TUNSTALL, *Master of the Rolls*, without control or survey; also Master RICHARD SPARCHFORD,† priest; and WILLIAM LOWTH, goldsmith of London.

Revokes and annuls any and all wills or codicils previously made, and should any goods or things remain in the hands of his executors after the provisions of his will have been carried out, by sale of his goods to the uttermost value, then he was content that they should keep any part thereof to their own proper use. Witnessed by William Stanlowe and Nicholas Ireton.

Perhaps the Rector had a relapse of the illness of which he complained in his letter to the earl of Shrewsbury, or at least had some forebodings of his approaching end, for on the 28th of December following, being then, as he says, "whole of mind, and in good memory, loved be God," he adds a CODICIL to the foregoing Will, in effect as follows:—

"I will that my sparber‡ of tawny sarcenet embroidered with double

* Given to Urswick by poor, needy Cuthbert in exchange for a certain sum as a loan, and now Urswick cancels the debt. See letter of Tunstall given below.

† Richard Sparchford, or Sparchfork, who succeeded Urswick in the living of Hackney.

‡ Sparber or sparver, "the canopy or tester of a bed."

"At home, on silken sparvers, beds of down,

We scant can rest, but still toss up and down."

Harleian Epigrams. See Dictionary of Robert Nares. Anletts or annulets, rings, or hoops. Verdours or verdors, "leaves."

anetts, and curtains with black sarcenet with the counterpoint of verdours, and the feather bed and bolster of down thereto belonging, shall be sold by my executors to the most value, and the price thereof to be disposed by them after their discretion for the soul of JOHN RATCLYFF, sometime serjeant of the cellar to King Henry the 7th.

"And whereas I received of Sir Stephen Jennings xl.s., viz., of my lady his wife 20s., and of John Hosier, mercer, 20s., I will that my executors shall immediately after my death send the said money to the Freres at Lancaster, to pray for their souls, (as) I received it of (them), according to their wills and minds.*

"Also whereas in my testament I have willed the one half of such debt as Master John Canby, farmer of my prebend of Milton in the cathedral church of Lincoln, shall owe to me at the hour of my death, to be delivered to my nephew William Redman, to be distributed at his discretion among the daughters of my nephew John A. Burgh; now I will that if the said bequest do not extend to the sum of £20 sterling, that my executors shall make good the same bequest of £20, of my moveable goods, and deliver it to my nephew aforesaid for the purpose aforesaid."

Also the testator makes a similar proviso in the event of his executors not being able to obtain for Mr. Redman the amount of the debt of Sir William Sandys† (to be devoted by Mr. Redman to the Freres and school house of Lancaster), viz., that the amount is to be made good by the sale of his (the testator's) moveable goods, on the delivery of the obligation into the hands of the executors by the said Mr. William Redman.

Also the testator goes on to add that "whereas in my testament I willed that every one of my servants should have one half year's wages after the rate as they take, my mind is, that the same quarter that I shall die in shall

* Viz., the souls of Sir Stephen and his lady and of Mr. John Hosier. Possibly "my lady" had been somewhat extravagant in dress, and Mr. John Hosier felt his conscience too somewhat pricked by her ladyship's cash.

† According to Thos. West, this family of Sandys were flourishing in 1591; they seem to have been a very influential and prosperous family.

be counted for one quarter of the said half year; and they shall have another quarter's wages besides, so that with both they will have one half year's wages. Also I bequeath (over and above) to every one of my servants for one month's board wages, 6s. 8d. And I will that my executors do pay my said servants immediately after my death their said wages, as board wages, etc., as I have declared, without any respite or delay, as parcel of my debt.

"And I will that my executors (as they shall answer before God) pay, or cause to be paid, immediately after my death all the bequests I have given to poor folks, religious, and others as specified, without any differing for any causes.

"I will and bequeath to Master Richard Sparchforth, one of my executors, 5 marks sterling, and to William Louth, my other executor, £5 sterling."

Both will and codicil were proved on the 11th of April, 1522 (viz., eighteen days after the death of Christopher), in the presence of Vice-Chancellor Cuthbert Tunstall and Master Andrew Smyth, solicitor.*

A short time before his decease, Urswick was actively engaged with Sir John Heron,† master of the jewel house to Henry the 8th, in the rebuilding of the church of St. Augustine,‡ Hackney. It consisted of a nave, chancel, and two aisles. Between each arch of the nave the arms of Heron were carved in stone. The same arms occurred on one side of the chancel windows; on the other side the arms of Urswick. Possibly it was the chancel only that was

* Probably the father of Christopher Smyth, Urswick's godson.

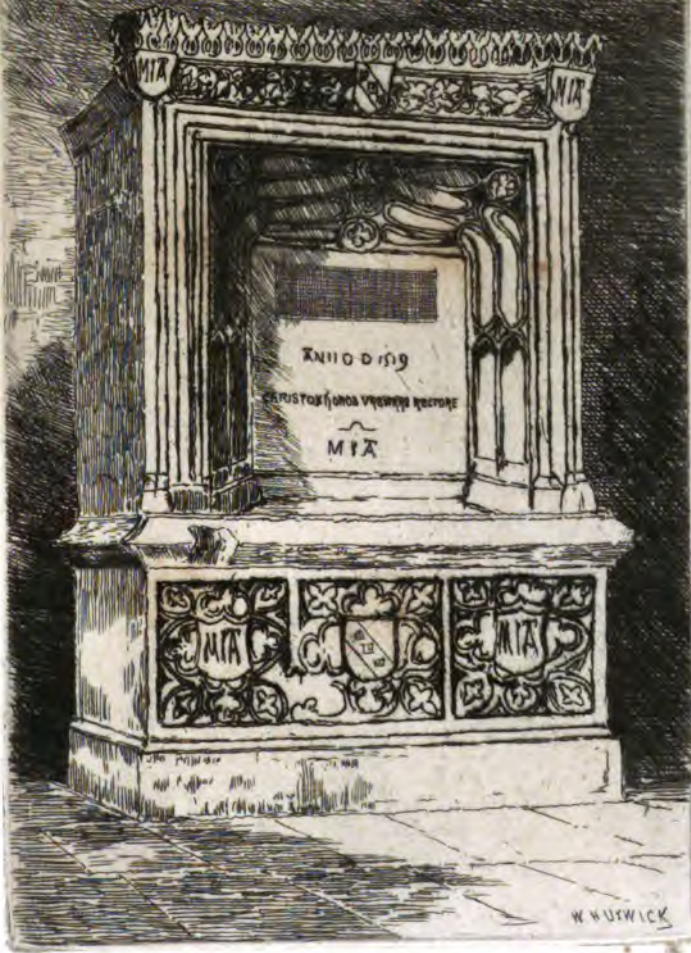
† His son, Giles Heron, had a daughter, the wife of Sir Thomas More, and shared the fate of his son-in-law, viz., executed for "high treason," so called, by Henry the 8th.

‡ Finally pulled down in 1799. The church of St. John's was built contiguous to its site.

rebuilt by Heron and Urswick, and the nave and tower remained as they have been built in the 14th century, or rather rebuilt, from a still earlier period. Whatever these restorations, rebuildings, or reparations may have been, it appears evident that either during their progress, or on their completion, Urswick designed, and caused to be erected on the north side of the chancel, an altar of white freestone, as a shrine of the patron saint, Austin or Augustine of Canterbury. It appears that this altar was utilized for Easter offerings, and for the ancient ceremony of watching on Easter eve through the night some representation of the Holy Sepulchre. This would not detract from the conjecture that it was intended as a shrine of St. Austin, and was made the receptacle of that image of which Urswick speaks in his will.

The altar bore at summit and base (and still bears), carved in the stone, Urswick's family shield of three lozenges on a bend. The table was plain, and also the back or reredos, with the exception of the date 1519 (viz., that of its inauguration), and beneath the date, *Christophorus Urswyke, Rector*, and again below his name, M.I.A., an abbreviation of *Miserecordia*, "Mercy." Urswick was buried, as he desired in his will, before (or in front of) the image of St. Austin, that is to say, in front of the altar which he had himself executed, and which evidently must have contained or supported such an image. On the pavement which covered his grave were placed two brass plates, the one being his effigy in full canonicals, the other a legend which runs thus:—

Christophorus Haverick tomb Hackney Church



CHRISTOPHERUS URSWICUS, *Regis Hen. VII. Eleemosynarius, vir sua aetate clarus, summatibus atque infimatibus juxta charus, ad externos Reges undecies pro patria legatus. Dec. Ebor. Archd. Richmond, Decanatum Windesor habitos vivens reliquit. Episc. Norwicensem oblatum recusavit; magnos honores tota vita sprexit: frugali vita contentus hic vivere, hic mori maluit. Plenus annis obiit, ab omnibus desideratus, funeris pompam etiam Testamento vetuit, hic sepultus, carnis resurrectionem in adventum Christi expectat. Obiit anno Christi incarnati MDXXI, die 24 Martii, anno aetatis suae LXXIIII.*

“Christopher Urswick, almoner of King Henry VII.; a man eminent in his age, beloved alike by the highest and the lowest; eleven times ambassador for his country to foreign kings. The deanery of York, the archdeaconry of Richmond, and the deanery of Windsor, during his life he resigned. The bishopric of Norwich which was offered him, he refused. Through all his days he spurned great honours. Content with a simple life he preferred here to live and die. He departed full of years, lamented by all. Even in his will he forbade funeral pomp. Here buried he awaits the resurrection of the flesh at the coming of Christ. He expired on the 24th of March* in the year of our Lord Incarnate 1521, in the 74th year of his age.”

This old church of St. Augustine, Hackney, was repaired about 1721, but being found too small for the requirements of the parish, various estimates for repairing or rebuilding

* The last day but one of the old style of year ending the 25th March.

were made in 1756 ; the present building, called St. John's, was commenced in May, 1792, was consecrated 15th July, 1797 ; the steeple and porches were not added until 1812.

The picturesque old church, hard by, was finally demolished in the year 1798, and it was an act of good taste that the altar erected by Christopher Urswick was eventually removed to a place of honour in the principal porch of the new building, the plate on which the legend is engraved, and that containing his effigy, having been affixed to the same,—viz., the legend on the back or reredos, and the effigy on the table of the altar. Some shields of arms formerly existed upon the effigy plate, but they are effaced. The spot where still rest the bones of this ancient rector, now unmarked by any stone, has been enclosed and partly utilised as a place of sepulture for the members of the family of Tyssen, lords of the manor of Hackney.*

The visitor to the altar in the porch of the present church

* John Robert Daniel Tyssen, D.L., F.S.A., was the third son of William George Daniel Tyssen, of Foley House, Kent, and of Hackney. Singularly the second son (the elder brother of John Robert), viz., Captain Charles Amherst Daniel Tyssen, died, aged 70, on the day previous to the decease of his brother John Robert, viz., on the 10th June, 1882. These were uncles of Mr. Tyssen-Amherst, M.P., of Didlington Hall, Norfolk, and lord of the manor of Hackney. The wife of Wm. Geo. Daniel Tyssen was Amelia, daughter of John Amherst. He died on the 11th June, 1882, at his residence, 9, Lower Rock Gardens, Brighton, aged 77. Much of the information here given we have received from the late Mr. Tyssen, and also from the Rev. J. W. Kenworthy, curate of Hackney parish church, who pointed out the spot whence the brasses were removed, on the old pavement, and described with minuteness the nature of the old Easter ceremonies, and the robes which Rector Urswick wore.

of Hackney cannot fail to be struck with the fitness of the same as a recipient of the memorial brasses; it seems powerfully to suggest the idea that the old rector had "an eye to the future" when he erected it, and wished to be remembered, as he certainly desired to be. Four days after his death, viz., on the 28th of March, a royal grant of the presentation of the living of Hackney was delivered at Hampton Court to Richard Sparchforth, M.A., "vice Christopher Urswick, clerk, deceased." The living was at the king's disposal by reason of the voidance of the see of London, WILLIAM HARYNGTON, LL.D., being keeper of the Spirituality.

Also by another grant issued on that day from Newhall, and delivered at Hampton Court on the 1st April, Richard Sampson, LL.D., was presented to a canonry in St. Paul's Cathedral, vice Christopher Urswick, deceased,—also in the king's gift by reason of the vacancy of the see of London.

On the 27th of March (preceding the issue of these two grants) Cuthbert Tunstal, then bishop of London, had written to Cardinal Wolsey as follows:—

"I thank you for writing to the king, for the preferment of my chaplain to the benefice of Hackney. The king has signed the warrant of presentation enclosed in the said letter, and I now send it by my clerk for you to seal when convenient. My servant, whom I sent to court, reports that he heard that the king had given the prebend of Cheswyke to Dr. Sampson, of which I am glad because he is worthy, and because Urswyk favoured him for Southwell's sake. To the lord Cardinal of York, Legate de Latere, and Chancellor of England."

Three years later when Tunstal had been commissioned, with Sir Robert Wingfield, to undertake an embassy to Spain, to demand of the emperor Charles the release of the captive king of France, under somewhat heavy conditions to the latter, we find, dated 14th of April, 1525, and written from Hampton, another letter from him to the Cardinal in which, after treating of other matters, says:—

“I thank you and the king for the promise of the see of Ely, if the bishop's sickness prove fatal ; but although the revenue is more than double what I could spend, I must refuse it for the following reasons :—Firstly, I am in debt for the last (papal) bulls, though I have sold all my plate, but what I carry with me ; secondly, my friends, from whom I borrowed more than half the sum, viz., URSWICK, Lovell, Ashton your surveyor, the bishop of Durham, and others, are dead ; thirdly, my own friends and kinsmen who were bound for me, are not able to help me, and would be loth to incur any more risk for me, as I saw when I was sick last year ; fourthly, I perceive by the trouble I have had even at home to get money for this voyage, how impossible it would be to get help when absent ; and the fifth and chief is, that if I should, for ambition of more promotion and dying in the meantime, do irreparable damage through my great debts to those friends whom hitherto I have not helped, I should thus both jeopard my soul, and undo my friends for their kindness towards me, which I would be loth to do.”

It will be noted by referring to the records of Sir Thomas Urswick, Recorder of London, that he was succeeded in that office by Humphrey Starkey, being one of a northern family, viz., the Starkeys of Huntroyd ; and now we gather some notes of another member of that family in the person of Mr. Lawrence Starkey, also like Humphrey, a man of laws, who on the 27th of May, 1525, was appointed by the lord abbot

of the monastery of Furness to assemble and attend all the leet courts, sheriff's turns, and sessions of Peace to be held at Dalton or within the liberties thereof at appointed times, and to issue all writs and processes in due form; for which services he was to receive for the term of his life an annual stipend, payable at Michaelmas and Easter, of £6 13s. 4d., a gown of the livery of the abbot and convent, and all costs incurred on such occasions by him and his servants for meat, drink, parchment paper, and horse fodder.

On the 27th of July in the following year, 1526, this Lawrence Starkey, gentleman, writes to Thomas Cromwell, counsellor to the Cardinal, stating that he was bound for the late Lord Monteagle to Christopher Urswick for the farm of a benefice, which although (he asserts) it had been paid for eighteen years before Urswick's decease, that now the bishop of London had sued him for it in Middlesex, and had had him condemned in £30 and £4 costs, of which (says Mr. Starkey) nothing is due. Asks for his (Cromwell's) help, sends 6s. 8d. in gold as a memorial, and promises to remember him better when his (Starkey's) client Richard Coupland comes.

In another letter bearing same date, he tells Cromwell that "he is bound for the said late Lord Monteagle to Christopher Urswyk in several other obligations, for two of which Lord FitzJames and Mr. FitzHerbert had awarded him and two others to be bound to Urswyk's executors to pay £35 at certain days, which bond must be delivered to the justices or vice-chancellor at Lancaster assizes the Monday after *Vincula*

St. Peter ; as further obligations are yet pending, wishes to know Wolsey's pleasure, for if he does not keep his bond, it will ruin him. Hears that an adversary has lodged an untrue information against him to (Lord) Norfolk in order to prevent him from keeping his day. The bearer will tell him (Cromwell) how that Wolsey bade him (Starkey) to find surety that he would be forthcoming, to take the serjeant-at-arms with him, or go to the Fleet and take a keeper, and that (then) he should be set at large. Had replied to Wolsey that the term was ended, and the gentlemen of his (Starkey's) country departed. Wishes Cromwell to ask Wolsey why he must find surety, for he (Starkey) knows not."

We gain no further notes or tidings as to what befell this old Urswick family beyond as already shewn, the mere existence of an obscure and now quite extinct branch in London, and the Shropshire family with the name slightly corrupted, whose name first appears at "Felhampton" in 1524, viz., two years after the death of Christopher, and between four and five years after the death of his nephew Thomas Urswick, of Lancashire. Although they first appear as a small family, holding a few hundred acres at a remarkably low rent, a sufficient time had elapsed for their great impoverishment through a combination of causes, viz., their alliance and attachment to the once powerful but now comparatively ruined house of the Haryngtons; their futile efforts to lay claim to the Badsworth estate which had passed from them by failure in male issue, to the family of Vavasor

Tower Old Hackney Church



W. H. UTWICK

in 1510; the same thing occurring with regard to Thomas Urswick, of Lancashire, ten years later, when his lands passed to the Redman family; and possibly also a lack of enterprize and a too great love of retirement, which may have been cherished among them through their deep attachment to the monastery of Furness.

When we read that the inhabitants of Yorkshire in general were malcontents in the reign of Henry VII., still adhering to the extinguished house of York, and hating the reigning monarch;—that the Haryngton family by their obstinate indulgence in that feeling, lost nearly all their possessions,—and find that the Urswicks were their tenants and near kinsmen, we may reasonably conjecture that their political tendencies were similar, setting aside the example shewn in Sir Thomas Urswick the Recorder. And this will probably explain why Christopher, whose life was such a contrast to theirs, makes no mention of them, or any one of them, in his last will and testament. There is evidence, however, that his memory was tenderly cherished by some northern families, if we may take that of Rawlinson, one of its oldest and most enduring, as an example; for we read in Clutterbuck's History of Herts, that under the great window against the north wall of the transept of St. Albans Abbey there is a white marble sarcophagus to the memory of Christopher Rawlinson, of Cark Hall in Cartmel, Lancaster, who was born the 13th of June, 1677, and died in January, 1733, and was the son of Curwen Rawlinson, M.P. for Lancaster. This

Christopher Rawlinson himself appointed the mason who was to make the monument, bequeathed £200 to pay for it, and £100 towards the repairs of the church; and by a codicil directed that if he could not be buried where he desired, he might be buried in *Urswick's Chapel* in St. George's, Windsor, and the £100 given to that chapel instead of to this church.

XIV.

Dissolution of the Monastery of Furness.

NOW although the migration of a branch of the Urswick family into Salop was probably effected in the reign of Henry the 7th, and the dissolution of the monastery of Furness was not until the 28th year of the succeeding reign, viz., thirteen years after we obtain the first record of the Felhampton family (in the form of a subsidy levied there), yet the destruction of an ancient and religious institution to which they had been devoted since its foundation, deserves some notices in passing.

That such a revolution as that involved in the dissolution

of the monasteries throughout Britain was accomplished with so great ease and so little resistance, is in itself evidence that those hoary institutions scattered over the land had utterly lost the respect and confidence of the people. For at least two centuries before Henry VIII. the monasteries, great as well as small, had been centres and nests of rapacity, tyranny, and profligacy. The monks ruled the country round, imposed heavy taxes upon the farmers, made the poor their serfs, exacted heavy tolls and tithes upon all produce, and compelled the people to bring their corn to be taxed and ground as a monopoly at the abbey mills. A large chamber, for example, in St. Albans Abbey was paved with the querns which the armed servants of the abbot had seized through the country round, and on occasion of the peasants' revolt in 1381 the old annalist in the *Gesta* tells us how the leaders broke up this pavement, and distributed fragments of the querns among the people "like the holy bread at the eucharist," as the memorials of their former thralldom and their dearly-purchased freedom. The revolt failed; the monasteries had a new lease of power; but at length their cup of iniquity was full. "Now was the axe laid to the root of the tree of abbeys," says Fuller, and he quotes the preamble of the statute for dissolution of the lesser monasteries:—

"Forasmuch as manifest sin, vicious, carnal, and abominable living is daily used and committed commonly in little and small abbeys, and the governors of such religious houses spoil, destroy, consume as well the churches, houses, farms, lands, tenements . . . to the high displeasure of

Almighty God, and many visitations for the past two hundred years for an honest reformation have failed; . . . the Lords and Commons of this present Parliament resolve that the possessions of such small religious houses should be used and converted to better uses." "All I will add is," says Fuller, "God first punished great Sodom, and spared little Zoar, though probably also in fault. Here Zoar was first punished; let great Sodom beware, and the larger monasteries look to themselves."

Bishop Burnet writes:—"I now come to consider how the visitors carried on their visitations. Many severe things were said of their proceedings, but by their letters to Cromwell it appears that in most houses they found monstrous disorders."*

Some of the larger abbeys hoped to resist, and raised a commotion first in Lincolnshire, when Dr. Mackrel, friar of Barlings, collected a large company, of which he took the lead under the assumed name of the "Captain Cobbler." A proclamation of pardon from the king was effectual in dispersing this gathering, while the doctor, Lord Hussey, and a number of other leaders were publicly executed.

Another insurrection, called the "Pilgrimage of Grace," was headed by Robert Aske,† a gentleman of family residing at Aughton, in the East Riding of York. The priests and

* Fuller, *Church History*, book VI., §3; Burnet, *History of the Reformation*, part I., book 3.

† The old family of Aske, to which this misguided gentleman belonged, whose original estate bears their name (now but late the seat of Lord Dundas), is described by Whitaker as a long line of descendants from one of the earliest grantees and favourites of the first Earls of Richmond, and their manor as one of those gems of which even those mighty lords had not many to bestow. This was in all probability referring to their estate of Aughton which either derived or gave that family name of "Aughton." In those feudal days of great landed property the lords thereof were much "given to change."

their devotees entered into this with great ardour. The abbots of Whalley, Salley, Jervaux, Furness, Fountains, and Rivaulx, with all the persons they could influence, either joined the main body, or made diversions in its favour in their respective districts. Having carried the town of Hull and the city of York, they attacked Pontefract Castle. The Earl of Shrewsbury, the Earl of Derby, and other noblemen raised a force to resist the progress of the rebellion. Lee, the archbishop of York, and Lord Darcy, who were then in possession of Pontefract Castle, surrendered the fortress to the rebels without resistance.

The herald arrived at Pontefract with a proclamation from the king, and was received by Aske, seated on a kind of throne, with the archbishop of York on his right and Lord Darcy on his left, and attended by Sir Robert Constable, Sir Christopher Danby, and others. They refused submission to what the proclamation required.

The insurgents were afterwards repulsed by the Earl of Cumberland, in an attack made upon Skipton Castle. After twice failing through a sudden rising of the waters, in an endeavour to ford the Don, this rebel army was at last dispersed. But a fresh disturbance broke out in the northern extremity of Lancashire, under Musgrave and Tilley; similar risings took place in Hull and other places. Mr. Robert Aske, the leader of the "Pilgrimage of Grace," was tried and executed, as were also Sir Robert Constable, Sir John Bulmer, Sir John Percy, Sir Stephen Hamilton, Nicholas Tempest,

and William Lumbey. Many others were thrown into prison, and most of them shared the fate of their leader. Lord Darcy's plea of having surrendered the castle of Pontefract on compulsion was disregarded, and his advanced age of 80 years, many of them spent in the service of his country, did not gain for him the royal clemency, and he was executed on Tower Hill.

"The Pilgrimage of Grace" dispersed itself, says Beck, rather than was suppressed. The king published anew a general pardon; but at the spring assizes at Lancaster in 1537, John Paslew, abbot of Whalley, was sentenced to death for high treason on account of the part he had taken. Also William Trafford, abbot of Salley, and the prior thereof, also John Eastgate and William Haydocke, monks of Whalley, also Adam Sudbury, abbot of Jervaulx, and Ashbred, a monk of the same priory, and William Wold, prior of Burlington, were all executed at Lancaster, as leaders in the insurrection.

With reference to Furness Abbey,* it was surrendered on the 9th of April, 1537, in manner as follows:—

All the members of the community, with the tenants and servants, were successively examined in private, and the

* The monks were Cistercian, an order of Benedictines, taking their name from Cistartium, now Citeaux, in the bishopric of Chalons in Burgundy, about the year 1100. They wore at first black, then grey, and afterwards white cassock, cowl, and scapulary all of wool. They were distinguished for their abstinence, their rations being designated a *pietance* or *pittance*. Stephen Hardy was the first to establish the order in England. See Beck, *Annales Furnensienses*, p. 25, who says regarding the monasteries in general, "Wealth begot ease, ease induced luxury, and luxury precipitated its decay and ruin. . . . The exorbitant wealth, the arrogant usurpations, and scandalous manners of these societies effectually estranged them from the sympathy and bounty of the people. *Vos Monachi, vestri stomachi, sunt amphora Bacchi, Vos estis, Deus est testis, deterrima pestis*" (pp. 58, 91, 101).

result of a protracted enquiry was, that though two monks* were for some misdemeanour committed to Lancaster Castle, nothing could be discovered to criminate the brotherhood. The commissioners proceeded to Whalley, and a new summons compelled the abbot of Furness to appear before them; a second investigation was instituted, and the result was the same.

"In these circumstances," says the Earl of Sussex, in a letter to King Henry, which is still extant, "devising with myself, if one way would not suit, how and by what means the said monks might be rid from the said abbey, and consequently how the same might be at your gracious pleasure, I determined to assay him (the lord abbot) of myself whether he would be contented to surrender, give, and grant unto you, your heirs and assigns the said monastery; which thing so opened to the abbot fairly, we found him of a very facile and ready mind to follow my advice in that behalf." A deed was accordingly drawn up and signed by the abbot as follows:—

"I, Roger, Abbot of Furness, knowing the disorder and evil life, both unto God and our Prince, of the Brethren of the said Abbey, in discharging of my conscience do freely and wholly surrender to Henry all the title and interest which I possess in the Monastery of Furness, its lands and its revenues, binding myself to confirm and ratify this my

* Beck mentions the following :—"Furness *incontinentia*, Rogerus Pele *cum duabus solutis*. Johannes Groyn *cum soluta*. Thomas Horriby *cum soluta*.

purpose, mind, and intent, which cometh freely of myself, and without any enforcement, in consideration of the evil disposition of the Brethren of the said Monastery. At Whalley Abbey, 5 April, 28th of Henry VIII.”*

Thirty-three monks signed the deed of surrender. Officers were immediately despatched to take possession in the name of the king. The commissioners followed with the abbot in their company, and in a few days the whole community ratified the deed of their superior. To the abbot, ROGER PELE, was awarded the rectory of Dalton, value £33 6s. 8d.; the other superiors received liberal pensions, the priors of cells £13 to £20, and the monks two to six pounds per annum, in addition to a departure fee to provide for their immediate wants; to the nuns about £4, etc. Thus it will be seen that those connected with the monastery were not the great sufferers by this event, but those who held the lands by service and fealty or by rent to the abbot.

The suppression of the monasteries being in some cases entrusted to ignorant and interested individuals, was attended with the scattering or destruction of their libraries. “Some of those who purchased the monasteries” (says Bayle, Bishop of Ossary) “used the books to scour their candlesticks and rub their boots; some they sold to the grocers and soap-sellers, and sent others over sea to bookbinders by ships full, to the great wonder of foreign nations. One merchant bought the contents of two libraries for 40s., and used them in the stead of grey paper for more than ten years, having then store enough for as many years to come.”

To shew how heedlessly, carelessly, and without any reasonably fair

* Beck, *Annales Furnensienses*, p. 346. The original is preserved in the British Museum Library, MS. Cotton. Cleopatra, E 4, folio 246.

consideration King Henry the 8th granted away a monastery, the following story is told concerning Furness. Sir Thomas Curwen at that time was an excellent archer at twelve-score marks. He had a shooting bout with the king at the period of the dissolution of the larger monasteries, the smaller having already been suppressed; on which occasion his majesty said to him, "CURWEN, why doth thee not beg some of these abbeys? I would fain gratify thee in some way"; to which Sir Thomas replied, "Thank you, sire, I would desire of thee the Abbey of Forneis, which is nigh to me, for twenty-one years." "Take it," quoth the king, "for ever." "It will be long enough," said Sir Thomas, "for you will set them up again in that time." But they were not likely to be again set up, old Furness was gone for aye, and Sir Thomas Curwen sent his son-in-law, Mr. PRESTON, to renew the lease for him, and this young Mr. Preston forthwith renewed it in his own name; which act when Sir Thomas, his father-in-law, questioned him thereupon, he justified by saying, "You shall have it as long as you live, and I think I may as well have it with your daughter, as any other man"; to which point-of-law and right with none to contest it, no doubt old Sir Thomas was well content to agree, in his daughter's behalf.

The interval between the abandonment and the ruin of an edifice like this was but short. Soon after the appropriation of the funds to the use of the state, the building itself began to decay, and a structure that would have weathered the storms of a thousand winters, if cherished and supported by timely reparations, soon sank into a state of dilapidation.

Some of the painted glass from the noble east window is preserved at Bowness, Windermere. The window consisted of seven compartments, on three of which were depicted in full proportion the Crucifixion with the Virgin Mary on the right and the beloved disciple on the left of the cross. The rest of the window was filled up with other Scripture subjects,

and the arms of several benefactors, amongst whom were Lancaster, Urswick, Haryngton, and Fleming. Through the four centuries during which this religious house flourished, its revenues were continually being extended. Many broad acres of the great families in the district, the barons of Kendal, the Broughtons, Huddlestons, Kirkbys, Penningtons, etc., nearly the whole of Furness, and all the advowsons of the district except one, had come at length to be in their hands. They ruled like petty monarchs, maintaining a large force of armed retainers, besides being able to claim special military services from many of their vassals.

In conclusion, let us quote Judge Blackstone's words on this last kind of dissolution, which he calls "a kind of suicide," and proceeds to say that "it is the civil death of the corporation; in this case," he adds, "the lands and tenements shall revert to the person or his heirs, who granted them to the corporation, which may endure for ever; but when that life is determined by the dissolution of the body politic, the grantor takes it back by reversion as in the case of every other grant for life; and hence it appears how injurious, as well to private and public right, these statutes were which vested in King Henry the 8th, instead of the heir of the founder, the lands of the dissolved monasteries."



XV.

Families with whom the Arswicks were allied.

THESE we shall severally mention, following in the main the order in which the marriages occur in the pedigree and in the foregoing records.

LE FLEMING OF ALDINGHAM, CONISTON, AND NOW OF RYDAL.

This ancient and still-enduring family are descended in direct line from the first Sir Michael le Fleming, who being related to Baldwin, Earl of Flanders, was sent to assist William of Normandy, brother-in-law of Baldwin, when he invaded this country.

At that period he bore the name of Michael de Fourneys (or "of Furness"), being, we suppose, originally a native of Furness, or Fourneys, in the Netherlands. He was knighted by the Conqueror, and was sent into Cumberland to bring into subjection the Scottish partisans of Edwin and Morcar. For his prowess and success he was rewarded with the manors of Aldingham and Gleaston in Lancashire, and also with a grant of Beckermest Castle, sometimes called Carnaer-von Castle, in Cumberland, from William de Meschiens, to

which were added several contiguous manors in Coupland, afterwards called Egremont.

Sir Michael lived to an extreme old age, which was a great blessing to his vassals the Saxon families, who had been dispossessed of their estates by the Norman invader; to those, for example, who had formerly been mien lords of Aldingham, for we find Sir Michael bestowing upon different members of that family several grants of land from his own demesnes which formed a nucleus of future prosperity, raising them at length to an influential position in the county. Sir Michael shewed much prudence in his worldly affairs; we have an example of his astuteness in persuading the abbot of Furness to accept the villages of Cremelton and Ross, which were afterwards nearly swallowed up by the encroachment of that branch of the sea called Leven Water, in exchange for the still enduring villages, high and dry, of Bardsea and Urswick. Sir Michael was mindful of his future possessions, the abbot thought only of the fishing. He gave his old name of Fournays to all that island, and especially to the site of the newly-erected monastery, formerly known as Howgen-on-the-Hill.

The second Sir Michael, son and heir of the above, bequeathed the manor of Aldingham to his son William. The original hall of Aldingham was destroyed by the rising of the waters, at the same time with the partial inundation of Ross and Cremelton, and the family then resided at their castle of Gleaston. The great grandson of Sir William le

Fleming, to whom the manor of Aldingham descended, was unfortunately drowned in Leven Water, and having no issue, his only sister Alice inherited the estate.

From this Alice le Fleming, by a series of matrimonial alliances, with the families of Cancefield, Haryngton, and Bonville, we trace a descent to those hapless victims, Henry Grey and his daughter Lady Jane. And now we retrace our steps, and take up the descendants of the second son of the first Sir Michael, who at the period of this sad episode were residing at Beckermest Castle; and who in consequence of that calamity, removed to Furness. It was at this time that the marriage took place between Sir Richard le Fleming, late of Beckermest, and ELIZABETH, daughter of ADAM DE URSWICK, by which the family of Le Fleming acquired the manor of Coniston* and other possessions, which the Urswicks had inherited by an original grant made to them by Gilbert FitzReinfred.

Sir Richard le Fleming had a son and heir, John, who succeeded to the whole of his father's estates in Cumberland and Lancashire. He omitted to take out his patents of knighthood, and in this he followed the caution and prudence of his ancestor. By the statute every gentleman possessing a rental of £20 was compelled to take out his patents of knighthood, or "fine for the impediments"; but there was some degree of pomp and circumstance attending these

* Old prints of Coniston Hall are extinct; the publishers melted down the plates for the value of the copper. The lovely manor no publishers can melt down.

ceremonies by which candidates for knightly honours were put to great expense, and it was sometimes more prudent to submit to the risk of any slight penalty that might attach to non-conformity with the edict. John le Fleming was not thereby hindered from doing good service, for he was distinguished for his achievements in the Scottish wars of Edward I., and also in the seige of Caerlaveroke, for which he was rewarded by the king with a protection for himself and all his men from all amerciaments.

Next in succession comes Rayneres le Fleming, also called Dapifer, on account of his filling the office of steward to the king. But we must skip a few generations (for the complete history of this family would be a work in itself), during which they formed alliances with the houses of "De Turribus" or "Le Towers," lords of Lowick, the Kirkbys of Kirkby Ireleth, the Bardseas of Bardsea, etc., and we arrive at the reign of Henry IV., when a treaty of marriage was entered upon between Sir Thomas le Fleming, in behalf of his son Thomas, and Sir John de Lancaster, in behalf of his daughter Isabel, which being by all parties agreed to, young folks included, and Sir John de Lancaster being the fortunate possessor of Rydal Hall, he bestowed the same with the manor and lordship thereunto pertaining upon his daughter the bride as her portion. It was arranged that the manor of Coniston should be settled upon the issue of this marriage, which occurred in the year 1409. Young Sir Thomas resided alternately at Coniston and Rydal.

Rydal, or Ryedale, valley of rye, had become the property of the house of Lancaster by a grant made in 1280 by Margaret, widow of Robert de Ros, to Roger de Lancaster, from whom it passed to the Lancasters of Howgill, of whom the Lady Isabel above-named was one of the co-heiresses. The old hall stood in the Low Park on the south side of the Kendal road; nought of it remains but ruined walls and fishponds. The more modern building is on the north side of the road.

The next generation of Le Fleming is marked by an alliance with Broughton of Broughton Towers,* a fine old family which was about 67 years later brought to complete ruin through Sir Thomas Broughton espousing the cause of the duchess of Burgundy, when she put forward the pretensions of Lambert Simnel as a means to subvert the government of Henry VII.

John Fleming, Esq., next in succession, is the first of the family named as "of Rydal Hall." Here Sir John lived, and here in 1532 he died, and was interred in the burying-place of the former lords of Rydal.

In the two generations following, alliances were formed with the families of Huddletons of Millum Castle, the Lowthers of Sewborrow, Cumberland, the Middletons of Middleton Hall, Westmoreland, and others of similar position.

In the reign of Elizabeth, William Fleming resided at

* Gregson says that the Bradshaws were quartered with URSWICKS (among many other families) through an alliance with Houghton of Houghton Tower.

Coniston Hall, which at a great cost he enlarged and beautified; some old carvings have been preserved which shew the date and initial letters of his and his ladies' names. It appears that he lived rather too magnificently, and for a time greatly reduced the fortunes of his house; but after his death in 1597, his widow Agnes, who survived him about 33 years, being a lady of great spirit, prudence, and foresight, did at much self-sacrifice, so greatly increase her store, that she not only succeeded in providing for and obtaining desirable marriages for her six daughters, but also in repurchasing much of the property which had been disposed of, and eventually in adding to the estates the manor and lordship of Skirwith, the lordship of Kirkland, and the demesne of Monk Hall in Cumberland. Three of the daughters were her own, the others by her late husband's earlier marriage with Margaret, daughter of Sir John Lamplugh, of Lamplugh, Cumberland. Agnes was a sister of Lord Bindlos, of Borwick. Besides the three daughters, she had of her own family four sons.

The third son William distinguished himself in the ship that first discovered the Spanish Armada in 1588. When the eldest son John married, his mother retired to Rydal Hall, when she died on the 16th August, 1631, and was buried at Grasmere.

This eldest son and heir, John Fleming, was thrice married. His second wife was a daughter of Sir William Norris, of Speake, but he had no family until for the third time he

married, when his wife Dorothy, daughter of Sir Thomas Strickland, of Sizergh, Westmoreland, presented him with a son and two daughters. John was both sheriff and justice of the peace at different periods of the reign of James I.; in the succeeding reign of King Charles he paid several large sums for his adherence to the royal cause. His son and heir William having died young, Daniel Fleming, brother of John, became heir to the estates; he was a very handsome man, and so powerful that he could take up a person of any ordinary weight, seated in a chair, and hold him at arm's length. He was lieutenant of horse in his majesty's service, under the Earl of Newcastle. He was seated at Skirwith Hall, where he died, and was buried in the choir of the parish church of Kirkland in 1621.

William Fleming, his son and heir, was born at Coniston Hall in 1609, was educated by his cousin Dr. Daniel Ambrose, at St. John's College, Cambridge. He married in 1631 Alice, eldest daughter of Roger Kirkby, of Kirkby Ireleth, Furness, by whom he had six sons and a daughter. This William Fleming, like his uncle John, had to submit to heavy penalties for his allegiance to the unfortunate Charles, demanded of him by the commissioners of Goldsmiths' Hall. He resided sometimes at Skirwith, and sometimes at Rydal, but died at his birthplace of Coniston 25th May, 1653.

Twenty years after this, his eldest son, Sir Daniel Fleming, the father of fifteen children, after the death of his wife in 1650, retired from Coniston, and made Rydal Hall his

permanent residence. None of the family again resided at Coniston, and the old hall, pleasantly situated on the banks of the lake which bears its name, was thenceforth deserted. Sir Daniel died 15th March, 1701.

The next in descent was William Fleming, born at Rydal Hall, July 26th, 1656.

Then Sir George, fifth son of Sir Daniel, who died 2nd July, 1747, aged 81.

Then William, only son of Sir George, who left issue one daughter, and the inheritance came to—

Michael, sixth son and tenth child of Sir Daniel, and next his son—

Sir William Fleming, who at the baptism of his son Michael, restored the old orthography, and reassumed the article "Le" prefixed to the name of Fleming, which for many generations had been omitted. Sir William died in 1756, and was succeeded by Sir Michael, who was the 23rd in succession from Richard le Fleming, second son of the first Sir Michael le Fleming, who was the friend of William the Conqueror. And, as before shewn, it was another Sir Richard (great grandson of the above Sir Richard le Fleming), who married Elizabeth de Urswick, and thus obtained the manor of Coniston.

At the commencement of the present nineteenth century, the family of Le Fleming counted twelve knights and four baronets.

SOUTHWORTH OF SAMLESBURY AND UPRAWCLIFFE.

Samlesbury is an extensive manor, a short distance southwest of Ribchester in Lancashire. The ancient hall was formerly moated around, and formed three sides of a large quadrangle. The centre hall, which was a noble specimen of rude and massive woodwork, was repaired by Sir Thomas Southworth in 1532, and at that time dated from the reign

of Edward III. Another wing, built of wood towards the quadrangle, and of brick outwards (the earliest specimen of brickwork in the parish), was of a later date. There was about this house a profusion and bulk of oak, that must almost have laid prostrate a forest to erect it. The principal timbers were carved with great elegance, and the compartments of the roof painted with figures of saints, while the outsides of the building were adorned with profile heads of wood, cut in bold relief within huge medallions. It is barely possible that this interesting old manor-house may still be preserved, and if so, it will be curious to observe how the inner doors have neither panel, nor lock, and have always been opened, like those in modern cottages, with a latch and a string. It is also remarkable that the boards, or rather massive planks, which constitute the upper floors, lie parallel with the joists, instead of athwart them, as if disdaining their support. In this old manor-house lived the family of Southworth, father and son, for 350 years.

The Sir Thomas Southworth, who repaired it, was one of the leaders at the battle of Flodden field. He was fifth in descent from that Sir John Southworth,* who was one of those ten knights who made covenant with Sir ROBERT URSWICK, sheriff of Lancashire, each to supply fifty archers for the field of Agincourt. Sir John afterwards died of dysentery at the siege of Harfleur in 1415. A grandson of

* John, son of Sir John de Southworth, was a joint-heir with Robert Urswick of John Sparrow's estates in Dorset, see above.

his married a daughter of Sir Richard Molineux, of Sephton ; who was therefore the great grandmother of the above-named Sir Thomas Southworth. As already stated, the Southworths held for a time by inheritance from the Coupland family (with whom they were united) the manor of Uprawcliffe in the reign of Edward III.; which estate similarly passed from them to the URSWICKS, and thence to the Kirkbys of Kirkby, and still later to the Westbys of Mowbrick, who gave the name of White Hall to the manor-house which occupied, and perhaps still occupies, the site of the old hall of Uprawcliffe.

This manor of Rawcliffe, Uprawcliffe, or Upper Rawcliffe, on the north side of the river Wyre, and about three to four miles below Garstang, was in the reign of King John granted to the widow of Theobald Walter, whose son Theobald (styled *Le Boteles*, *i.e.*, bottler or butler to the king) held it in the reign of Henry III. In the reign of Edward II. it passed to John de Coupland and his wife Joan, being tenants of the Duke of Lancaster. This John de Coupland was the valiant soldier who at the battle of Durham took prisoner David II. of Scotland, who endeavoured by repeated blows (dashing out several of his antagonist's teeth) to provoke him into slaying him ; but Coupland preferred to take his noble prize whole and sound, and for this act he was by Edward III. rewarded with £500 per annum until he could receive an equivalent in land "where he himself should choose," besides being created a Knight Banneret, and having many other marks of royal favour conferred upon him.

It is not necessary to enter into any further details of the ancient family of Cowpland, Coupland, or Copeland. Suffice it to say that the Southworths partly inherited of, and partly held in conjunction with, the Couplands their estate of Uprawcliffe, until it passed by marriage from them to the

Urswicks, and again from the Urswicks in like manner to the—

KIRKBYS OF KIRKBY IRELETH.

The marriage by which the Kirkbys obtained the manor of Uprawcliffe, is shewn in the Urswick pedigree as between John, third son of Richard Kirkby, of Kirkby, knight, and Johanna, eldest daughter of Robert Urswick, of Uprawcliffe and Badsworth, son of Robert Urswick, who had the grant, or obtained by marriage the possession, of this Uprawcliffe estate in the reign of Richard II. or Henry IV. There was also a marriage between Helen, sister of Johanna Urswick, and Roger, brother of John de Kirkby, which probably led to a further transfer of property from the Urswicks to the Kirkbys.

The Kirkbys were an old Furness family, who, like many others, derived their name from their habitation. Kirkby signified, as is apparent, the neighbourhood of a church, and Ireleth means a western assembly or settlement, as being seated, shortly after the Conquest, in Furness, the most western part of the ancient Northumbrian kingdom. The first of this line who can be fixed upon with certainty, was Roger de Kirkby, who was lord of Kirkby in the time of Richard I. He married a daughter of Gilbert, son of Roger FitzReinfred, and on that occasion assumed the arms which the family afterwards bore, viz., "A field argent, two bars gules, on a canton gules, a cross moline, or." The use of the cross moline shews an attachment to the Molyneux family,

either from allegiance or alliance. These arms were quartered with those of Urswick.

Gilbert FitzReinfred married a daughter of William de Lancaster, the sixth baron of Kendal, and his son and heir, in consideration of the vast estates which he inherited from his mother, assumed the name and arms of Lancaster.

Roger de Kirkby had two sons, the younger of whom, John, was a famous lawyer in the reign of Henry III. He was made judge of the king's bench in 1235, lord keeper of the privy seal in 1272, and in the succeeding reign of Edward the first, was appointed baron of the exchequer, viz., in 1283. He was author of a work much esteemed by antiquaries, viz., an "Inquest for Yorkshire," taken in 1284, and which bears his name. His elder brother, Alexander (who was heir to the estate), was during the life of his grandfather Gilbert FitzReinfred, left with him as an hostage for his own son and heir William (who had assumed the name of Lancaster by reason of his inheritance), for this William de Lancaster had joined the barons in rebellion against the king, and been taken prisoner to Rochester Castle in 1215.

At length, having fulfilled his probation for his uncle William's allegiance, Alexander de Kirkby became a great benefactor to Furness Abbey, so soon as he succeeded to the lordship of Kirkby by the death of his father Sir Roger. After a descent of five generations from Alexander, during which the Kirkbys formed alliances with the Couplands, Conyers, Le Flemings, Irebys of Ireby, etc., we find Sir

Richard de Kirkby a commissioner of musters and array in the reign of Richard II. He obtained either by grant or purchase an increase to his landed property in the manor of Wrightington. He had five sons and four daughters.* His eldest son, Richard, married Joan, or Jane, daughter of Sir Thomas Tunstall, of Thurland Castle, Lancaster (and had an only daughter, who married the first Lord Ogle, of Ogle Castle), but dying before his father, his next brother, Roger, succeeded to the Kirkby estate. Of the third son we gain no record, but the fourth was John, named in the Urswick pedigree, as having married JOAN, daughter and co-heiress of Sir ROBERT URSWICK, of Uprawcliffe, and by this marriage obtaining the manor of Uprawcliffe. Roger, the heir to the Kirkby estates, afterwards married HELEN, another daughter of Sir ROBERT URSWICK; this double union was probably the means of conveying a large portion of the Urswick's heritage into the family of Kirkby. They were good, generous folk, those Urswicks, and loved and cared for their daughters; their sons had their good swords, and strong arms to wield them, what more did they require?

Roger and John de Kirkby became the fathers of a long line of Kirkbys of Uprawcliffe, who continued to flourish until the reign of Charles I., when the family, by strenuously espousing the cause of that unfortunate monarch, were totally ruined; three brothers, the last heirs male, being all slain in the king's service.

* Elizabeth, the eldest, married Hugh de Curwen; Alice, the second, married Sir William de Houghton.

The originally resident Kirkbys of Kirkby Ireleth remained there in prosperity until the year 1750, when the estate having become much encumbered, Roger Kirkby, Esq., mortgaged it to a London banker, who was agent to Catherine, duchess of Buckingham; and this gentleman becoming insolvent, the manor passed to the duchess in part payment of his delinquencies. She bequeathed it to Constantine Phipps, Lord Mulgrave in Ireland, from whom it was purchased in 1771 by the Right Honorable Lord John Cavendish, from whom it descended to his nephew the Duke of Devonshire.

Regarding the family of Westbye of Mobrick or Mowbrick, it appears that John Westbye obtained a moiety of the manor of Uprawcliffe, so early as the reign of Henry VIII., by his wife Ellen Kirkby. His grandson John Westbye won great riches and honour in the reign of Elizabeth, in advancing the Reformation. The family at that period seem to have been rapidly increasing in prosperity; in Elizabeth's reign and in the succeeding ones of James and Charles, their names occur in the *post-mortem* inquisitions as holders of very numerous estates in Lancashire and Yorkshire. Among their possessions were lands in URSWICK; and it is singular that in the *post-mortem* inquisition of John Westbye, in the third year of the reign of James I., viz., 1606, this word Urswick is, in the printed volume preserved in the British Museum, twice, viz., in index and folio, spelt URWICK.*

The Westbys were originally a Yorkshire family. Gilbert de Westbye was sheriff of Lancaster in 1233. We may note a few marriages between the Westbys and other families of the north which occur in these records. For example, John Westbye who in 1567 married Margaret, daughter of

* See *Ducatus Lancastriae*, vol. I., fol. 72, No. 80.

Andrew Barton, of Smithels, Lancaster, had a second wife, Katherine, daughter of Thomas Southworth, of Samlesbury. A Thomas Westbye, of Mobrick, married a daughter of Edward Norris, of Speake; Allan Westbye, of Loton, married a Katharine Radcliffe; and Stephen Westbye a daughter of Ashton of Middleton.

In 1631 the Kirkbys are stated to have been sole owners of the township of Uprawcliffe, anterior to their downfall by adherence to King Charles, and in that year Thomas Westbye purchased from them the hall, afterwards called White Hall, and settled it on Major George Westbye, his eldest son, by his second wife. Robert Westbye, who died in 1792, held lands in Much Urawick.

LE SCROPE, OR LE SCROOP, OF BOLTON, DANBY, MASHAM,
AND UPSALL.

The early members of this family belong too much to the dim past to present much material for history.

They are described as men of laws and letters, who although of Norman, were of somewhat humble origin,* and by their talents and ability more than by feats of arms, raised themselves to a position of great influence.

Robert le Scrope is mentioned by Dugdale as holding three knight's fees in the county of Gloucester in the 12th of Henry III., and in the 24th of the same reign as having free warren in East and West Boulton, and in possession of other estates in Yorkshire. His son and heir was Henry, whose son and heir was William, who was living in the reigns of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Edwards.

* Their name does not appear among the great feudatories of the Earls of Richmond.

A younger son of this family was Sir Geoffrey le Scrope, who purchased monastic lands at Masham, and thus founded the family styled Scrope of Masham. They did not build a hall at Masham, however, but resided at Little Barton, and at Clifton, Thornton Watlass.† Sir Geoffrey died in 1339.

† Watlass, or "wattle house," house built of wattles.

He had a son and heir, Geoffrey, who was the lord of Masham at the period when the battle of Nazara, or Najara, was fought, so we may conclude that it was a daughter of this gentleman who was wedded to Sir WALTER DE URSWYK after that young knight had returned from the scene of that sanguinary struggle where he rendered such "good service." Geoffrey le Scrope, of Masham, had a son, Henry, who died in 1391. Henry had a son, Stephen, of Masham, who married in 1377 Margaret, daughter of Sir Henry Huntingfield, was knight of parliament in 1377 and 1392, and died 25th January, 1405.

Richard le Scrope, who built Bolton Castle, was Lord High Chancellor and keeper of the great seal in the reign of Richard II. He is described as "not having his fellow in his own degree for prudence and integrity in the whole realm." An occasion is quoted when a favourite courtier of the king having obtained from his majesty a considerable grant, he applied to Sir Richard le Scrope to have the royal seal affixed thereto, but Sir Richard refused, saying that the duty of his office would not permit him to set the seal committed to his keeping by the parliament, to all the king's indiscreet grants, until he had acquired a little more knowledge of their nature. This Sir Richard had a memorable dispute with a Sir Robert Grosvenor, knight, who had assumed the same armorial bearings as himself, or at least with so trifling a difference as was insufficient except in cases of consanguinity.

Four generations in descent from Sir Richard bring us to Sir John le Scroop, of Bolton, whom we find adhering to Edward IV. against the Lancastrians, also engaged in the Scottish wars of that period, and commanding part of the English army at the siege of Norham Castle.

A grandson of Sir John, viz., Henry le Scroop, commanded in the rear-guard, while his kinsman Lord Scroop of Upsall led the van, at the battle of Flodden field.

These were the lords of Bolton and their descendants; but those of Masham came to a sad end in the career of one Sir Henry le Scroop, who, although he had gained great respect from the kings Henry the 4th and 5th, yet in the latter reign, aided by the Earl of Cambridge and Sir Thomas Grey, raised an army, and spreading the report that Richard the 2nd was still living, endeavoured to excite the nation into restoring the house of York to its ascendancy. It is denied that they had any design against the life of Henry the 4th, but this fact did not prevail in their favour, and these three noblemen were, as traitors, condemned to the block.

RADCLYFFE (OR RATCLIFFE) OF RADCLYFFE TOWER, ORDSAL, &c.

Radclyffe, in the hundred of Salford, was one of the possessions conferred upon the restless and ambitious Roger de Poictou by the Conqueror; but being forfeited soon after the Domesday survey, the estate was granted to a Saxon family, who took the name of De Radclyffe, and enjoyed the privilege of free warren and free chase in the territories of the duchy of Lancaster. They held at different periods the offices of seneschal (or steward) and minister (or magistrate) in the forests of Bowland and Blackburnshire. John Radclyffe, of Ordsal, accompanied Edward III. in his French wars, and was knighted in 1347. Coeval with him was Sir Richard Radclyffe, of Radclyffe Tower, whose daughter

ELENA is named in the Urswick pedigree as married to Sir ROBERT URSWICK. Sir Richard Radclyffe held several estates in Clitheroe, was steward of Blackburnshire in the early part of the reign of Edward III., was high sheriff of Lancaster in 1355 and 1358, and justice of the peace by commission dated 12th July, 1394, viz., three years after his son-in-law, Sir Robert Urswick, had held the same office. Besides his daughter Elena (who was not the eldest of the family, and consequently not an heiress), Sir Richard had four sons, William, Christopher, Thomas, and Roger, two of whom figure on occasions as justices of the peace.

This family abound in knights of parliament; to name a few for example, Robert de Radcliffe was summoned to serve for the county of Lancaster in the years 1334 and 1338; Robert and John in 1340; William, son of Robert, in 1344, 1350, and 1360; William, son of Richard, in 1366, and Richard (his father) in 1368. Also in company with Robert Urswick, Thomas de Radcliffe in 1395, and Randolph in 1397.

HORNBY OR DE HORNBY.

We have it on record that in the reign of Richard II. Margaret* de Hornby gave Sir Robert de Urswick power of

* This Margaret de Hornby was Margaret Nevile, the daughter of Sir Robert Nevile, who was heir to the Hornby estate. She was the wife of Sir William Haryngton, who fell at Agincourt, and was afterwards married to Sir Robert Urswick, who fought with his fifty archers, and backed by 450 more, under his kinsmen with whom he had covenanted as high sheriff of the county, under the banner borne at that fight by Sir William Haryngton.

attorney to take possession of her estate of Asthorpe in Lincolnshire, and that this lady was afterwards married to Robert, son and heir of Sir Robert Urswick, of Uprawcliffe. But although the Hornbys were a family whose importance outlived the Reformation, of their early history we do not succeed in learning more than that they were at a very remote period alienated from their original estate of Hornby (which we find held by the Neviles and afterwards by the Haryngtons), and became settlers in the Flyde or Fylde country, viz. the low level land which lay between Lancaster Bay and the mouth of the Ribble.

Johanna de Hornby was receiver-general of the rents of the duchy of Lancaster under John of Gaunt, and the records in the duchy office give the seals of the same arms which have been ever since borne by their descendants, viz., "Or, a chevron between three bugle horns, sable."

William de Hornby was appointed rector of Badsworth 30th April, 1408.

HERTFORTH OF BADSWORTH.

Prior to the Conquest, Badsworth belonged to two Saxon brothers, Upton and Rogerthorpe, and they being dispossessed, it was given to the "Lacies"; from them it passed to the Reinviles. By the marriage of Eva, daughter of Swein de Reinville, with Eudo de Longvilliers, it descended to their grandson John de Longvilliers, whose daughter and heiress married Geoffrey de Nevile, of Brierley and Hornby. The

estate remained in the possession of the Neviles until the reign of Edward III., when a daughter of that family was allied to William Hertforth, of Whessington, in right of which marriage Badsworth became the heritage of the Hertforths for four generations, until it passed, as already shewn, by the union of Johanna Hertforth with Robert, son of ROBERT URSWICK, of Uprawcliffe, into the hands of the latter, who held it conjointly with his brother Thomas; thence it descended to Robert Urswick, son of Thomas, and from Robert to his daughter, Isabel de Vavasour.

MOLYNEUX, OR MOLINEUX, OF SEPHTON.

The pedigree of this family dates from the year 1200. It is shewn that a Sir Richard Molineux, of Sephton, had for his second wife, Helen, the daughter of Sir Thomas Urswick, of Badsworth. This Sir Richard Molineux was high sheriff in 1396; he was son and heir of Sir William, who was son and heir of Sir John Molineux, who was living in the reign of Edward III.

Sephton, or Sefton, the original seat of the family, descended to them from their ancestor the Norman William de Moulines, who obtained it by a grant from Rôger de Poitou, the land having previously been held by the Thanes, who were the gentry of the Anglo-Saxon race.

The church at Sephton is a handsome pile, erected in the reign of Henry VIII. by Anthony Molyneux, who was then rector, noted for his good preaching and his pious deeds. In the chancel, which is divided from the nave by a screen, and contains sixteen stalls of elegant carving, are

deposited the remains of many of the family, and memorial brasses have been affixed of their earlier members. There are also two stone monuments of cross-legged knights with triangular shields to indicate their profession as templars, and an altar tomb of white marble surrounded by an inscription to the memory of one Sir Richard Molineux (probably the son of Sir Richard before-named), who distinguished himself at the battle of Agincourt, and was consequently knighted by Henry V. This Sir Richard was lord of Bradley, Haydike, Warrington, Burton-wood, and Newton-in-the-Dale. He died in 1439, and his wife Joan is also memorialized in the inscription on the tomb. There are brass effigies of Sir William Molineux and each of his two wives. This was a Sir William who signalized himself in three actions against the Scots in the reign of Henry VIII., and at the battle of Flodden field he took two banners. The Lancashire archers having contributed so much to the victory, the king, under his own seal, sent a letter of thanks to Sir William for his share as one of the principal leaders of those brave and well-skilled bowmen. This Sir William died in 1548. There are brasses of his son Sir William, two wives, and thirteen children.

On a flat stone is preserved the memory of Caryl, Lord Molyneux, an eminent but unsuccessful royalist in the reign of Charles I. His family raised a regiment of foot and another of horse in support of the king, for which he was subjected to heavy penalties during the Commonwealth, but after the Restoration was advanced to high honours. In the broken painted glass of the windows may be seen the names of Molineaux with date 1542, Margaret Bulcley, daughter of Sir Richard Molineaux, with date 1543, etc.

The seat of the present Earls of Sephton is Croxteth Hall.

REDMAN, OR REDMAYNE, OF LEVINS, WESTMORELAND.

This is a family whose memoirs are more in sympathy with those of the Urswicks than perhaps any other, for the reason of their social status being somewhat on a par as Saxon families of similar callings, who were neither lords

nor barons, but were frequently knights of parliament. They were so much better than the Urswicks, that their family history produced a bishop; whereas, although the opportunity was presented to Christopher Urswick to attain that honour, he declined it. He refused the offer, because he had the misfortune to be called to a diocese where persecution* of those who shewed reformatory tendencies was rife; and he was of too loving a disposition to become a persecutor, and not sufficiently far-seeing, nor sufficiently wise or courageous to become a reformer, and in all probability a martyr. He shrank alike from the bait thrown out to him by the corrupt rulers of the Church, and from the great and glorious opportunity offered him by a Higher Power to assert the truth, as it had begun to dawn upon his friend Erasmus. We must neither marvel nor complain then, that his name is buried in comparative obscurity.

The name of Redman as associating with that of Urswick is interesting not only on account of the relationship which is shewn to have existed between them at the time when the latter became apparently extinct in the north, but from the fact of their names having been linked together in many transactions from a very early period. For example, in the reign of Henry III. when Elizabeth, daughter of Adam de Urswick, being the widow of Sir Richard le Fleming, settled

* The martyrdom of Babram is already mentioned. About 1529 we have another example in the fate of Thomas Bilney, who was burned in the Lollard's pit, among the hills outside the city of Norwich. Bilney was led to abjure the errors of Rome by perusing the writings of Erasmus.

upon her son John le Fleming her patrimonial estate of Kerneford, her brother John Urswick, Matthew de Redman, and another, were the witnesses to the deed.

Again, on the 3rd of October, 1337, when Thomas de Urswick was one of the knights and gentlemen who formed the retinue of Earl Bohun on an expedition to France, Matthew de Redman's name stood next to that of Thomas de Urswyk, evidently indicating that they were in company together when entered on the list. Again, in the year 1510, when Isabel de Vavasour, daughter and heiress of Robert Urswick, of Badsworth, in her last will and testament endowed and ordained a course of services at the church of Badsworth, to be conducted "for ever" (so soon to be annulled, not purified, by the Reformation), which services were styled a chantry, the witnesses to the "foundation charter" of this same chantry were Christopher Urswick, late archdeacon of Richmond, James Haryngton, dean of York and rector of Badsworth, Edward Redman, Esq., and two others. Christopher Urswick in his will appoints his nephew William Redman as trustee to carry out certain arrangements as to his *schools at Lancaster*. Also in the *post-mortem* inquisition of Thomas Urswick, who died in the year 1519, it is shewn that one of his sisters married a Mr. Redman, and that they had a son, James Redman, who was a joint-heir with William Bentam of the property left by Thomas Urswick, who had died without male issue.

This old Redman family still maintained a position in the land of their

birth after the dissolution of the monastery of Furness, although there is little doubt that they were, like hundreds of other families, greatly impoverished by it. At the period of that event (1537) we find William and Thomas Redman holding considerable estates in the neighbourhood of Furness; in 1549 William Redman is in litigation with the vicar upon the vexed question of tithes, which were such a source of grievance to the inhabitants of Furness after the Dissolution. In the same year Thomas Fell is engaged in a similar dispute with the vicar. This leads us to the subject of an old tenement in Much Urswick, called Redmayne, or Redman, Hall, which is stated by Baines (the Lancashire historian) to have been formerly called "Urswick Hall." It was occupied (or more probably perhaps the house which stood upon the site of the present one, was occupied) for nineteen generations by the family of Fell, whose heir Robert Geldart held it in 1835. By this we are inclined to suppose that this was the home of Thomas Urswick at the time of his death, that it descended to the Redmans, and passed from them to the Fells, thence to Robert Geldart, Esq., whose niece Mrs. Battersby was but lately, if she is not still, in possession.

Redmayns or Redmans,* with their corrupted name also of Redmond, are now as thick as blackberries in our little island, so let us turn to some fragments which we gather of their history at that remote time when they formed a more distinct and distinguishable family.

Their original seat was Levins in Westmoreland. Norman de Redman obtained the estate from Ketel, son of Uchtred in 1188. As their neighbours the Urswicks were within the spiritual jurisdiction of Furness Abbey, so in like manner were the Redmans within that of the Abbey of Shap. Henry, son of Norman de Redman, seneschal of Kendal, was a

* Redman, Redeman, or Radman, a "knight-rider."

witness to a grant made by Robert Veteripont to that monastery in 1211. Benedict, son and heir of Henry, was a hostage for the future fidelity of Gilbert de Lancaster, baron of Kendal, to King John, the said Gilbert having for a time been in rebellion, as we may conclude; this occurred in 1215. This Gilbert de Lancaster, it will be remembered, was the son of the Roger FitzReinfred, from whom Gilbert de Urawick obtained the manor of Coniston.

After Benedict, we have Matthew de Redman, seneschal of Kendal, who was one of the witnesses to a deed confirming a grant of lands in Preston, Holme, and Hutton, which had been made by William de Lancaster, a former baron of Kendal, to Patric, son of Thomas, son of Gospatric, and also to a similar grant by the same baron of the manor of Skelsmergh to Robert de Leyburne: both deeds dated 1270 or 1271.

In the year 1296 Matthew de Redman was witness to a grant of lands in Old Hutton and Home Scales by John de Culwen to his brother Patric de Culwen. Matthew de Redman was knight of the shire in 1295, 1307, and 1313.

His son Matthew was one of the jurors at the post-mortem inquisition of Ingelrum de Gynes in 1323; performed the same office for Robert de Clifford in 1345; and was knight of the shire in 1358.

By the post-mortem inquisition of Joan de Coupland, dated 1376, it is shewn that Matthew de Redman held of her by homage, and a service (or rent) of two marks yearly, the manors of Levins and Lupton, as of her (or as we should say being part of her) manor of Kirkby in Kendal. Also he held of her a moiety of a manor called Quinfell and divers tenements in Selfat. Also Thomas de Redman, who was one of the jurors on this occasion, held of her a tenement situated in Kirkeslack.

In 1381 Henry Percy, 1st Earl of Northumberland and 4th Lord of Alnwick, having been constituted one of the commissioners for guarding the west marches, and having received command to take special care of the

castles and garrisons in these parts, transmitted the same charge to Sir Matthew Redman, knight, who was his lieutenant in Berwick. And Sir Matthew was so overzealous in his duty, and so strict in observing the orders of his chief, that on the arrival of John, Duke of Lancaster, from Scotland, he was refused admission to Berwick Castle. This so much incensed the Duke* against Earl Percy that at a subsequent meeting which they had in the presence of the king and some of his nobles at Berkhamsted, sharp words passed between them; the altercation grew so high that the Earl was arrested, but Earls Warwick and Suffolk being present, they became surety for his appearance at the next parliament to explain the matter, and he was set at liberty, and allowed to depart.

At the post-mortem inquisition of John Parr, knight, in 1407, John de Redman was one of the jurors; and at that of Ingelram de Courcy in 1411 James de Redman was in the same capacity. Richard de Redman married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Middleton, of Middleton Hall, esquire, and was knight of the shire in 1441.

By an inquisition held in 1483, it was shewn that the manor of Levins was held of William Parr, as part of the barony of Kendal, by Edward Redman, aged 27, being heir in the place of his elder brother William, deceased without issue; and that the said William and Edward were the sons of Richard, son of Matthew, son of Matthew, son of Richard de Redman. This is only interesting as evidence of the careful preservation of the entail in those times. This Edward Redman was living in the reign of Henry VII., and in 1488 Thomas Haryngton (a cousin of Sir James and Robert Haryngton, who were attainted after the battle of Bosworth) held of him a messuage and tenement in Lupton. He, Edward Redman, was the last of the line of the Redmans or Redmaynes of Levens; the estate was sold, but the family had produced one who became a noted ecclesiastic in the person of Richard Redman, D.D., bishop of St. Asaph in 1468, and abbot of Shap in 1471. He was entangled in the affair of Lambert Simnel,

* John of Gaunt; tyrannical and overbearing, no doubt, but he had a large heart and keen intellect. He was a patron of Chaucer, and a supporter of Wycliffe.

but acquitted himself; was promoted to the see of Exeter in 1495, and translated to that of Ely in 1501, where he died in 1505. There is a sumptuous monument to his memory in Ely cathedral.

More voluminous records of this family may be found in Sir George Floyd Duckett's "Harwood Evidences." He mentions a Walter Redman, D.D., born in 1425, rector of All Saints, Norwich, who died in 1508. Also a John Redman, D.D., first master of Trinity College, Cambridge, who assisted in compiling the prayer-book of Edward VI. in 1549, and died at the age of 52, in 1551. And again a William Redman, bishop of Norwich in 1594. The decay of fortune in this family about that period may be attributed to the same cause as that of many more, viz., the decay of power among the tenants-in-chief of whom they were tenants-in-fee.

VAVASOR, OR VAVASOUR, OF WILLITOFT, SPALDINGTON,
BUBWITH, BADSWORTH, &c.

This family derived their name from "Le Valvasor," which was an office held under the king little inferior to that of a baron. It was remarked that in twenty-one descents from Sir Mauger le Valvasor in the time of William I., not one of them had ever "married an heiress, or buried their wives," implying of course that they won their estates by their own warlike qualifications, and mostly fell on the battlefield.

Two alliances between the families of Vavasor and Urswick have been already mentioned, viz., one in the 14th and another in the 15th century. The former between Sir Henry Urswick, knight, and Anne, daughter of Sir Robert Vavasour and his wife Constance de Mowbray; the latter between Sir William Vavasour, of Bubwith, and Isabel, daughter of Sir Robert Urswick and his wife Katherine Haryngton. With

regard to the former, Sir Robert Vavasour was knight of parliament in 1313; was engaged in several of the Scottish wars of that period, in one of which he lost his life.

It would appear that his brother Sir Henry Vavasour married his widow Constance, and had issue, two sons;—perhaps by a special dispensation from the Pope, or perhaps this would be unnecessary, let the learned decide.

It is recorded that a Sir William Vavasour, who died in 1312, held a messuage and 80 acres of land in Badsworth. Connecting this with the marriage above named, we cannot but imagine that the Urswicks were associated with the manor of Badsworth for a much longer time, and in many more ways, than is accounted for in the possession (through the medium of the Southworths) of the brothers Robert and Thomas, and afterwards of Robert, son of Thomas Urswick.

Referring to the later union of Sir William Vavasour of Bubwith, and Isabel Urswick, of Badsworth, we have another reason* for supposing that the records gathered as to the various periodical disposals of the Badsworth estates must be very meagre, a mere sample of many scores of others perhaps cherished in monastic archives, and sharing the common fate of such documents at the Dissolution.

* Namely, in the letter of Christopher Urswick to Lord Darcy, where he speaks of his manor of Badsworth. The manor of Bubwith, seat of Sir William Vavasour, was one of six, viz., Bubwith, Foggathorpe, Gribthorpe, Willitoft, Harlthorpe, and Spaldington, which have long been gathered into one parish, bearing the name of Bubwith, and situated in the Holmebeacon division of the Wapentake (or hundred) of Harthill.

The Vavasors had an original estate at Hazlewood earlier than any above mentioned. Their settlement at Spaldington took place in the reign of Edward I.

They were (as is apparent) one of the most influential families of the north, had goodly estates in Lincolnshire, as well as Yorkshire. Their family history is too vast to be here entertained, so calling to mind the fact that a daughter of this family, viz., Mary, daughter of Thomas Vavasour, of Spaldington, esquire, was the wife of Sir Ralph Assheton, of Middleton, baronet, in the 17th century, we pass on to those (at one time) most powerful and wealthy allies and kinsfolk of the Urswicks,—whom, if they led them into anarchy and rebellion, we will by no means pronounce to have been desirable kinsmen, although no doubt at that period the Urswicks were sufficiently proud of them,—viz.,

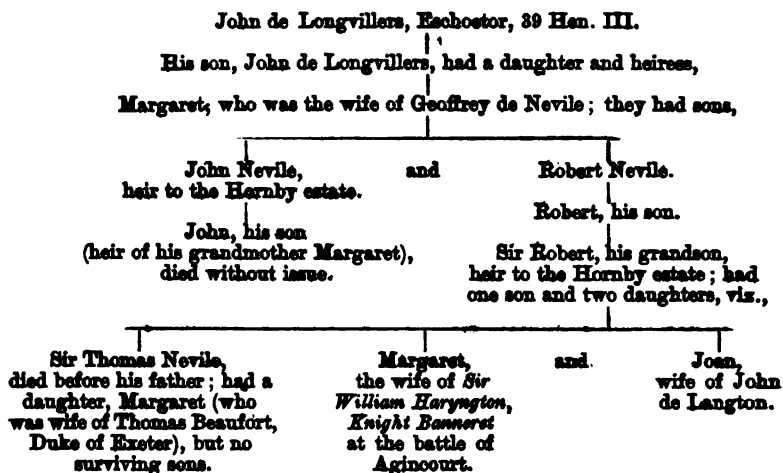
THE HARYNGTONS OF HAVERINGTON, IN CUMBERLAND, afterwards known as the Haryngtons of Aldingham, Gleaston Castle,* Tatham Farleton, Witherslack Hall, Arnside-tower, Brierley, Hornby, Badsworth, etc.

These Haryngton records, being more scattered and voluminous than those of other families connected with the subject in hand, may be more conveniently set forth by a few abbreviated pedigrees, to show the connexion of Haryngton with those of Nevile, Le Fleming, Bonville, Gray, &c., adding in the form of a key to the same a few remarks on the salient

* The Le Flemings built Gleaston Castle, and it passed to the Haryngtons with the manor of Aldingham.

points of historical interest which some of their members present. Several of their wives, although ladies of distinguished birth, will probably, for the sake of brevity, be omitted, and may their fair and honored shades pardon the slight.

FRAGMENT OF PEDIGREE OF NEVILLE OR NEVILLE OF HORNBY.



FRAGMENT OF PEDIGREE OF LE FLEMING OF ALDINGHAM,
in connexion with Haryngton and Bonville.

Michael le Fleming, of Aldingham, drowned in Leven Water, being the fourth or fifth in descent from the first Sir Michael le Fleming, had a sister, Alice, wife of Richard le Cancefield, who thus obtained the manor of Aldingham. Richard and Alice had sons, but they died without issue; and a daughter, Agnes, brought the estate to her husband Sir Robert de Haryngton. This Sir Robert had a son, John, who died in the year 1347. John had a son, Robert, who died before his father, but had a son and heir, John, who died on the 7th of June, 1363; a younger brother of his was Sir Nicholas Haryngton, of Farleton.

FAMILIES WITH WHOM THE URSWICKS WERE ALLIED. 179

FRAGMENT OF PEDIGREE OF HARYNGTON,
shewing the connexion with Bonville, &c.

Sir John Haryngton
(elder brother of Sir Nicholas),
married the daughter of Sir
Walter Bermingham, and died
in 1363; had a son,

Sir Nicholas Haryngton,
of Farleton, Kent, was the
father of Sir William Haryngton,
Knight Banneret, slain at
Agincourt.

Sir Robert Haryngton, knighted by Rich. II., 1377,
married Isabel, daughter of Sir Nigel Loring, K.G.,
died in 1405, aged 42; had two sons, viz.,

Sir John, Lord Haryngton,
who was with Henry V. in his
French wars, and died without
issue in the year 1418.

and

William Haryngton, of Aldingham,
afterwards Lord of Haryngton,
he married Katherine, daughter of
Hugh Courtney, Earl of Devon,
and had an only daughter,

Elizabeth Haryngton.

Elizabeth Haryngton was the wife of Sir William Bonville,
who was the son of Sir William Bonville, of Chuton, Devon,*
and grandson of Sir John Bonville, of Chuton.

This Sir William, who married Elizabeth Haryngton, had
a son, also Sir William, who married a daughter of Sir Richard
Nevile, and had a daughter, Cecily. This Cecily de Bonville
(lady of Haryngton, by the marriage of her grandfather to
Elizabeth Haryngton) was ten years of age when her great
grandfather fell a victim to the vengeance of Margaret of
Anjou, queen of Henry the 6th. Her father and grandfather
were then both dead,—the latter had died in the previous
year of 1460, and the former had perished on the field of the
battle of Wakefield, fought in the same year. The old great
 grandsire, who had been knighted by Henry the 5th in 1417,

* Or Somerset. He was in the battle of Bernard's Heath, near St. Albans.

was high sheriff of Devon in 1422, and had served Henry the 6th in his French wars for the whole year of 1442, with 20 men-at-arms and 600 archers; he was knight of parliament in 1449, and was by his sovereign constituted for life the governor of Exeter Castle in 1452, yet in 1460 at the battle of Northampton he was forsworn, having transferred his allegiance to the house of York, and being then triumphant, had the custody of the captive king's person. It would seem that in spite of all this seeming treachery on his part, there was a friendly understanding between the king and him; which, however, proved of no avail, when he at length fell into the hands of the queen, and he then reaped the bitter fruits of his seeming disloyalty and ingratitude by an ignominious death.

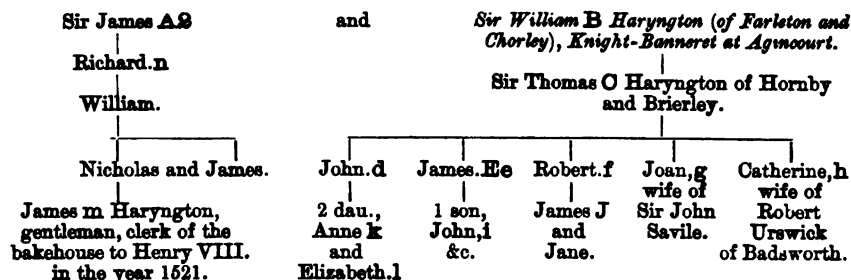
Cecily de Bonville, heiress (when of age) to the lordship of Haryngton, was twice married: first to Thomas Grey, created Marquis of Dorset by his father-in-law King Edward the 4th. It will be remembered that Cecily, Marchioness of Dorset and Lady of Haryngton, is mentioned in the *post-mortem* inquisition of Thomas Urswick, dated 1519, as possessing lands in Trinkeld, Ulverston, Urswyk, Stainton, &c., which the said Thomas held of her by rent and fealty, and of her second husband Lord Henry.

By her first marriage with Thomas Grey, Cecily had a son, Thomas, who became Marquis of Dorset at his father's death in 1494; himself dying in 1530, he left two sons, Thomas and Henry. Henry was created Duke of Suffolk by Edward the 6th. That king granted him and his family the dissolved priory in the Minories as a residence. Henry was beheaded for

high treason against Queen Mary on the 17th of February, 1554, scarcely a week having elapsed since his hapless daughter Lady Jane and her husband Lord Guilford Dudley had fallen victims to the duke's ambition. Henry's brother Thomas Grey shared the same fate on the 27th of April following. The head of the duke, embalmed, was long preserved by his family; when the priory was destroyed by fire, it appears to have been forgotten or overlooked, and was discovered in a cellar, covered with sawdust, in which the hair came off. This grim relic may still be seen at the Trinity Church, which occupies the site of the chapel belonging to the ancient priory. The features must have been bold and handsome, but the shape of the head is far from intellectual.

Lady Cecily's second husband was Lord Henry Stafford, a younger son of Henry, Duke of Buckingham, and created Earl of Wiltshire by Henry the 8th in the first year of his reign. By this marriage there was no issue; Cecily died in 1523, and the earldom became vacant. This lady was one of the receivers of the king's rents for the county of Salop.

An abridged pedigree of the Haryngtons of Hornby and Brierley, descendants of Nicholas **A**1 Haryngton, of Farleton, Kent, and also of Chorley; and of one other branch similarly descended, viz., respectively from his sons James and William.



Sir Nicholas Haryngton, of Farleton, &c., had other sons besides James and William, so also had Sir William other sons besides Thomas of Hornby,

&c., but the object here is to confine ourselves exclusively to the heirs of the Hornby estate, which line is shewn so far as *history* goes to be *apparently* extinct;—the line descending from Sir James, brother of Sir William, being merely touched upon in reference to the dignities obtained by descendants of that branch who survived the troubles which the family brought upon themselves by their political tendencies.

We will now consider in detail the different members of this family, and the scraps of history which we obtain concerning them.

KEY TO THE PEDIGREE OF HARYNGTON OF HORNBY.

(A1) Of Sir Nicholas Haryngton, of Farleton, we have nought of interest to relate, and his brother John having already been spoken of, we will pass on to his son,

(A2) Sir James Haryngton; and as, at different periods, we have four members of the family similarly named, care is necessary to avoid confusing them. This first-mentioned Sir James was the knight who married HELEN, daughter of Sir THOMAS URSWICK, of Uprawcliffe and Badsworth, about the year 1406, and by that union obtained lands in Quassington and Bermingham, and a moiety of the Badsworth property which had come to the Ursicks from the Hertforths. His brother, viz.,

(B) Sir William Haryngton, knight of the noble order of the Garter, and “knight banneret” or standard bearer at the battle of Agincourt, where he fought and fell, married Margaret, daughter and heiress of Sir Robert Nevile, of Hornby. She was otherwise called Margaret of (or de) Hornby, and as we learn that Robert de Urswick, sheriff of

Lancaster, led fifty archers (and covenanted with nine other leaders for 450 more) at the same memorable battle, and as we have it on record that he married Margaret de Hornby, we naturally arrive at the conclusion that Robert Urswick was a combatant under the banner of Sir William Haryngton, and that he eventually married Sir William's widow. A very pretty story might be woven out of this incident by a romantic genius, but the object of these records is to develop truths which have been obscured through neglect, and not to adorn them with fiction.

It was this Sir William Haryngton who, with his lady Margaret, presented the monastery of Furness with a handsome and fine-toned bell, which after the Dissolution was transferred to the church of Urswick, where it may still be seen. Sir William's youngest sister Mary married a Mr. John Redman, or Redmayn,—another instance of the coterie formed by this group of old Lancashire families. Sir William's son, viz.,

(c) Sir Thomas* Haryngton, of Brierley and Hornby, who married Elizabeth,† daughter of Sir Dacres, and had by her three sons and two daughters, was 60 years of age when the

* Sir Thomas Haryngton was at the battle of Bloreheath, when the Yorkists prevailed; and on finding themselves deserted by their field-marshal Trollop, he and the Duke of York fled to Calais. They were, with two of the Neviles, attainted, but landed at Dover on the 2nd July, 1460, and on the 10th of the same won the battle of Northampton.

† Elizabeth Dacres, a ward of his father Sir William. Sir Thomas Urswick, of Mark's Hall, &c., had a daughter who married a connexion of this the Dacres family.

battle of Wakefield was fought on the 29th of December, 1460. Sir Thomas was not slain on the field, but he succumbed to the combined effects of his wounds, his age, the inclemency of the season, and grief for the loss of his eldest son, who fell by his side on that day, and the old man died on the day following. His eldest son, viz.,

(a) Sir John Haryngton, who was killed, left a widow Maud, daughter of Thomas, Lord Clifford; Sir John also left, by his wife Maud, two daughters, Anne (κ) and Elizabeth (1), aged four and five years. Their mother Maud was soon again married to Edmund Dudley; and for the present we pass to the second son of Sir Thomas, viz.,

(Be) Sir James Haryngton; but as there are many details connected with this gentleman's career which possess a greater amount of interest than any other of his name, let us reserve these until we have finished the minor points in their pedigree; merely shewing that his wife was Joan, daughter and heiress of Sir John Nevile, of Oversley, being, when Sir James married her, the widow of Sir William Gascoign; and that they had a son, John (1).

(1) Sir Robert Haryngton, who married Isabel, daughter of William Balderston, esquire (a co-heiress with one Lady Wortley), and had by her one son, James (J),* dean of York, and rector of Badsworth.† With regard to the two sisters

* James Haryngton, dean of York, &c., one of the witnesses to the foundation charter of Isabel (de Urswick) Vavasour.

† Also a daughter, Jane, who married Edmund Talbot, of Bashall, and had one only child, Thomas, who died at the age of 13.

(viz., the fourth and fifth of the family of Sir Thomas Haryngton), Joan and Catherine, the former married Sir John Savile, and had three daughters, Mary, Anne, and Agnes. The latter (Catherine) married, as already stated, Sir Robert Urswick, of Badsworth.

On the death of Sir John, as narrated, his two children, Anne (k) and Elizabeth (l), were placed under the guardianship of their uncle Sir James. A bitter rancour and jealousy existed between the Haryngtons and the house of Stanley; and actuated by this feeling, and suspicion lest the latter should obtain an influence over his nieces, and by such means a power to dispose of their property of which he was trustee, Sir James appears to have exercised too strict a surveillance over the young people, at which, as years advanced, they rebelled; and having by means of a secret and friendly agent succeeded in conveying a message to the king, complaining that their uncle kept them "prisoners," they were eventually by royal command removed from his guardianship, and placed under that of Sir Thomas, Lord Stanley, who, it will be remembered, was the stepfather of Henry, Earl of Richmond, afterwards king. This movement must have greatly increased the enmity between the families. The result, so far as it affected the young ladies, was, that the eldest was married to Sir Thomas's younger son, Edward Stanley (afterwards Lord Monteagle), and Elizabeth to his nephew, John Stanley, of Houford. Anne died childless on the 5th of August, 1488. Her sister Elizabeth became a widow, and was afterwards married to Richard Beaumont, of Whitley. It has been mentioned that Sir James had a son, John (i). This John, it is said, died at Temple Bar in 1510, and it was darkly hinted that he met his death by poison from the hand of a servant of Sir Edward Stanley's. This may have been an unmerited aspersion, set afloat by family hatred; but it is a fact that Elizabeth, in a letter to her husband, Richard Beaumont, did endeavour to cast a suspicion upon her brother-in-law, Sir Edward, of having been implicated in the crime. Sir Edward Stanley was a materialist, as well as a philosopher, and a man of

deep design, but this accusation was not proven; therefore let us believe that it was without foundation. In course of time when the vast property of the Haryngtons had been confiscated by their disaffection to the house of Lancaster, nearly all their estates passed by grants and various means to Sir Edward Stanley, but he seems having gained his ends, to have extended the right hand of fellowship to his kinsfolk, and by interceding with royalty in their behalf, to have gained for them some valuable appointments, as by way of example, when in 1511 in the month of November, another John Haryngton was made sheriff of Rutland, and again in 1521 when James Haryngton, gentleman, on account of his illustrious descent from Sir Nicholas Haryngton, was made "clark of the bakehouse" by Henry VIII.

It is not in these, or many other members of that family who thus had crumbs of dignity thrown to them when they had ceased to be lords and barons, for these Haryngtons were also styled barons of Egremont, from their having held a third part of that manor from the reign of Richard II. to that of Henry VI.; it is not in these that we are more particularly interested, but in the supposed movements of him, who being the richest and most powerful of his family, and the most determined Yorkist of them all, deeming from past experience that "all was lost now," and that his head would not be safe upon his shoulders, fled from the lost field of Bosworth plain, and is said never to have been heard of more. He was great nephew to the Sir James Haryngton, who "married [*circ.* 1406] a daughter and heir of URSWICK,"* and there is little doubt that he was the same Sir James Haryngton who aided the Talbots to take prisoner the deposed King Henry VI. at Waddington Hall some twenty

* Harleian Visitation of Cheshire, 1580, p. 140.

years previously, so that he had little reason to expect favour from the triumphant house of Lancaster. Both he and his brother Robert were in arms for King Richard, and though few will sympathize with the misfortunes of those who would fight for such a monarch, we must bear in mind that gentlemen of the north did not believe half the stories that were told about him; also that this Duke of Gloucester was a very brave general, that he was the reigning representative of the house of York, and that they hated the Earl of Richmond "like poison." Robert did not, like his brother, take to flight; but his goods were confiscated, and although a partial reversion of the attainder was made in favour of his son James, it was then too late to be of any service to him, as by the kindness of Sir Edward Stanley he had been made dean of York (1507), and also appointed to the rectory of Badsworth, the living being then in Sir Edward's patronage. James held the deanery, as well as the rectory of Badsworth, until his death in 1512, when he was succeeded by Wolsey. James seems to have been quite as fortunate as he deserved, for so strongly was he imbued with the family partizanship, that although his father was at that time lying under attainder, he made in the year 1487, in company with the Earl of Lincoln, an expiring effort to restore the Yorkist party to power, by joining the expedition headed by the German Colonel Schwartz in aid of the foolish pretensions of Lambert Simnel, prompted by the Duchess of Burgundy. For this he was attainted, as his father and uncle before him

had been ; but his acts of rebellion had in the year 1504 been quite overlooked and pardoned, for it was at that period that the reversion above named was made in his favour.

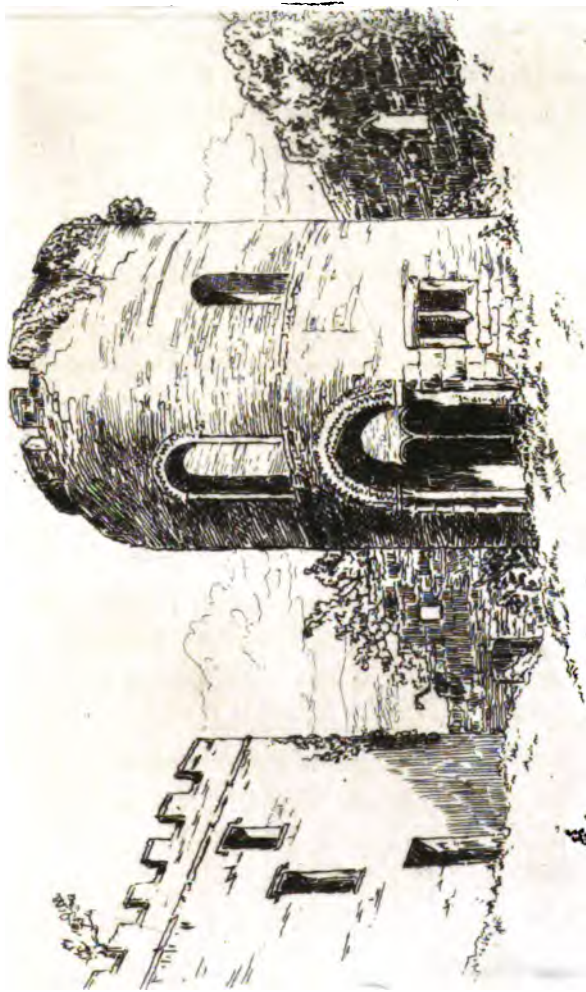


XVI.

Settlement of the Haryngtons and Urswicks in Shropshire.

THE northern historians, Baines, Hunter, and Whitaker tell how, when the field was lost at Bosworth, August 22nd, 1485, Sir James Haryngton took to flight at the request of the dying monarch, and was heard of no more. One says that he mounted his good horse, and fled at the suggestion of the king, another that, joined by his wife, he probably fled to the court of Burgundy, and a third that he died in extreme poverty. Now, as all these are merely conjectures, we have a perfect right to form our own, and they are that Sir James, happy in all his troubles, being joined by his faithful wife, did not fly to the Duchess of Burgundy for refuge, but sought it in a more congenial atmosphere within his own country, yet so far within the

Round chapel Ludlow castle



W. H. WICK

bounds of his Welsh neighbours as to feel safe if any urgent enquiries should be made. Perhaps he had no cause for fear, and might have remained in his own land, and amongst his own kindred in perfect safety, so far as his life was concerned, but the confiscation of his property was inevitable, and he was of far too bold and independent a spirit to be a witness to his own degradation.

Twenty years after these events, viz., in 1505, an inquisition was taken of this attainder and conviction of Sir James Haryngton, and it was shewn that he had been possessed of the manors of Brierley, Shafton, and half of that of Hemsworth, of lands in South Hindelay, Culthome, Peniston, the patronage and advowson of Bretton, the churches of Bads-worth and Hemsworth, and a chantry in the church of Doncaster. The family had long and obstinately contested their right to Hornby, on the grounds that Sir James had been tenant-in-fee thereof, but Sir Edward Stanley settled that matter by obtaining a grant of it from the king.

We rarely find the URSWICKS mentioned, except when engaged in some official capacity, viz., as magistrates, sheriffs, or members of parliament. Their constant participation (which being trained to war from their youth, was inevitable) in the scenes of conflict, being neither nobles nor barons, but knights of the lesser order, or knight bachelors, as they were called, these military duties would pass unnoticed with hundreds of others; they were, like a great multitude of their fellow-combatants, included in the general summary:

"besides many other knights and gentlemen," a clause so frequently occurring in the descriptions of the "Wars of the Roses."

Again, taking into consideration the close alliance and mutual dealings of the Urswicks with the Haryngtons, we cannot entertain much doubt as to which way the greater part of them would lean,—so long as the house of York had any hopes of ascendancy.

And turning once more to the subject of the *post-mortem* inquisition of THOMAS URSWYK in 1519, we find a mysterious absence of any mention of the name of the father of the said Thomas; we learn that his mother was still living, and held lands in dower for the term of her life, and we also learn that his grandfather was named JOHN, and that his father's brother was Christopher Urswyk, clerk, who was heir of his father, brother, and nephew, all of whom he survived. We shall conclude that the father of Thomas was, being an elder brother, also named JOHN after his father; and this John was between 40 and 50 years old, if living, when the battle of Bosworth was fought. Upon this combination of circumstances and those which follow, we infer that John (son of late John), father of Thomas, had another older son named after him, and who was with him at the said battle fighting on the side of the Yorkists; that John, senior, was either killed on the field, or died shortly after, or in some way was prevented from returning to his wife, or being joined by her; and was therefore reckoned among the slain.

That young John, dreading to return home from the lost battle, and thus bring trouble upon his family, fled with Sir James Haryngton, and perhaps many more, and was also supposed to have been slain.

It is easy to picture a little band of fugitives, having by previous consultation resolved upon such a course in the event of defeat, scouring the track towards Atherstone; there they would come upon the old Roman or Watling Street, yet undestroyed, and not only available, but extremely well adapted for the purposes of their flight, as from its almost perfect straightness, they could view either friend or foe for a great distance in front or rear; this old road coming direct from London by St. Albans, Dunstable, Stony Stratford, Northampton, and Daventry, and after passing Atherstone, taking only one bend to the left or more southerly direction about Tamworth, would take our little band *via* Litchfield and Shiffnall to the junction at Wroxeter, the old "Uriconium" of the Romans, with the other Watling Street, running north to Chester, and south to the Bristol Channel. Taking the latter route, for they had had enough of the north, they now find themselves within the Welsh marches; and feeling tolerably secure, they proceed more leisurely, and gaze upon the glorious scenery, the thickly-wooded hills, and fertile valleys of that country, which they have oft before looked upon with longing eyes, and determined in their hearts that should adverse fate overthrow the dynasty of the house they loved, they would here seek a home as simple

yeomen, fell timber with their battle-axes, cut down the brushwood with their old swords, and wing their arrows at pheasants, partridges, and hares, instead of foes. On their route to Bloreheath, either they or their fathers some six and twenty years since had, no doubt, explored some portion of that land of beauty. Some two years later than the fight of Bloreheath, near Shrewsbury, that of Mortimer's Cross, near Ludlow, must have compelled many members of their families to traverse this very road, and survey these very glades rich with grasses, streams abounding with fish, such as their old monastic ponds of Furness could hardly boast, hills that might prove fastnesses to them if required, as they had been to Caractacus of old. But these pictures, though not overdrawn, are somewhat departing from the matter-of-fact details which it is our duty to deal with.

It is from the "Lay Subsidies," or taxes collected, in the hundred of Mounslowe, or Munslow, Salop (which are written on long strips of parchment, four to six inches wide, and varying in length, bound together with small thongs and wax, and preserved in the Record Office, Fetter Lane, London), that we gather further tidings of our friends Haryngton and Urswick. These strips of parchment are called "membranes," and are bound together in various quantities from a very few up to as many as eighty in a bundle, and closely written, often on both sides, with the names of every tenant of every grade and in every village, the rate at which his lands or goods, as the case might be, were valued, and the amount of

his tax, or subsidy, of so many pence in the pound, according to the levy.

This over-careful system of entering the names of each tenant, and for which purpose a collector had to be selected and employed in each small circuit, does not appear to have been adopted until the 15th year of the reign of Henry VIII., viz., 1523, or thereabouts, and the custom ceased on the accession of Charles II.; after which, as at the times previous to its adoption, simply the rates of assessment and the amounts levied in each district, village, or parish, were entered, and no further care was taken as to particularising each ratepayer. It was probably a kind of inquisitorial process instituted to prevent any of the king's subjects from evading their contributions or dues to the crown, which might be attempted in remote districts except when under strict surveillance. These curious old documents are written in the quaint manuscript or court hand of the periods, and as these often differ somewhat in their styled construction, they are occasionally very difficult to decipher, and one is very glad to avail oneself of the kind assistance of those courteous gentlemen who preside over the literary department in those musty and dusty archives. With regard to the identity of the names of Urswyk and Urwyk, the superintendent of that office remarked, "If you know anything about the etymology of names, you cannot entertain a doubt."

To commence then with the first of these entries for the county of Salop in the 15th year of the reign of Henry VIII.*

* Record Office, Lay Subsidy 166—127, 15 Hen. VIII.

and turning to the collections in the hundred of Munslowe, we find under the head of "Ffelhampton" (which evidently here includes a wider circuit embracing the Marsh and other adjoining small villages or hamlets) among other tenantry a name which looks like John "Uvrwyk." Now this collector's work is throughout a rather illegible one, so we are not surprised that John Urwyke, as he chose then to call himself, and giving the Yorkshire broad dialect to his initial, pronouncing his name, John Orwyk,* should have had his name thus entered.

Twenty years later we find a great improvement, and the name clearly and legibly rendered as Urwyke. But we have not yet concluded with the first entry, nor completed the subject which leads us to it in the matter of the Roman road aforesaid. In its southern route from Wroxeter, near Shrewsbury, it passes through the estate of Felhampton, formerly a vill, or hamlet, which is described by the late Rev. W. Eyton as having been disforested by an act of perambulation in the reign of Edward the 1st, viz., on the 6th of June, 1300, which act was ratified in the following year. The lord of the manor at that period, and somewhat subsequently, appears to have been one John Stepleton, who held that and the adjoining estates of Marsh, Afcot (or Affechot), Streford, etc., in villeinage, that is, for certain

* The name was phonetically spelt in the north on some occasions,—Orswick or Worswick, and the peasantry of Lancashire in the present day call the village of Urswick, OSSICK.

services rendered to John FitzAlan, son of FitzAlan, a benefactor of Lilleshall Abbey, to the abbots of which these lands belonged, prior to the Dissolution. This John de Stepleton, we are told, did no suit either to county or hundred, and paid neither stretward nor motfee, which we may construe as something similar to road rate and land tax, and may form a conjecture that he had an "easy time of it"; and as indicating that the feudal laws in those parts were not very stringent, we may see a very good reason for many families seeking a home and a refuge there when driven from the birthplace of their ancestors by the confiscations resulting from their adherence to the cause of a faded faction. We have no means of ascertaining whether these lands were still in the holding of this same family of Stepleton at the period to which we are alluding, or who was then lord of the soil; but the old manorial residence was most probably then still existing, of which no reminiscence now remains but the field which occupies its site, and which still bears the name of Grittles or Gritthalls, being a corruption of Greathall. Subsequently, when the feudal system had faded out, and that of free tenantry taken its place, a farm-house was erected, with the customary outbuildings. The house has long since disappeared, but the buildings remain, and are utilised, in addition to the newer ones contiguous to the modern and by no means picturesque residence of Felhampton Court.

At the time the subsidy here in question was made, John

Urswyke, or Urwyke, made one of several tenants apparently of Felhampton: not a freeholder, as we naturally conjecture from the fact of his being rated in the value of goods, and not of lands. The amount of his valuation was £2, and he was taxed at the rate of sixpence in the pound,—that is, he paid a subsidy of one shilling. He probably held about 200 acres, and his position in taking up a grant in that thickly-wooded country may have been very similar to that of the modern Canadian settler, who obtains land free on the condition that he builds a house, and clears and cultivates a certain portion of land within a stated period.

Lying contiguous to Felhampton on the north-east side is Alcaston, where in this same subsidy of 1523 we find, a close neighbour of JOHN URWYKE, the name of RICHARD HARYNGTON. It is an isolated instance of that name either in the hundred of Munslow or the surrounding country; you may search the closely-written columns of those parchments, and not find it again recurring. This Richard Haryngton,* of Alcaston, was apparently in precisely similar circumstances with John Urwyke, his goods being valued at two pounds (which would be equivalent to something between £20 and £25 of present valuation), and the subsidy which he paid being one shilling, or equivalent to 20s. or 25s. of modern coinage.

Most of the other tenantry of Felhampton, the Marsh,

* Richard Haryngton we surmise to have been the son of Sir James Haryngton (now deceased), by his wife Joan de Nevile, Richard being then 38 years of age or under.

Downe, etc., are by no means suggestive of a northern extraction; but there are exceptions, as Butler, and more especially Marston, who was then of Afcott,* and whose family have held the freehold until of late, but now alas! they have sold it. Afcott adjoins Felhampton on the south side, and a little to the east, and having a very convenient and pretty residence on the estate, in addition to the farmhouse, which probably occupies the site of the more ancient residence; this additional residence, called Afcott House, has in modern times been a favourite place of retirement for the older members of the occupants of Felhampton or their kinsfolk.

But it is of the old days we are speaking. The Marstons were evidently in more opulent circumstances than their Felhampton neighbours, being, as to goods, valued at £3, and consequently having to pay a subsidy of 1s. 6d. This was Ewardus, or Edward, Marston, who came of a Lincolnshire family, but the awkward break in their pedigree, which we find in an old manuscript,† is vividly suggestive of their having belonged to the little band of exiles which included Haryngton and Urswyk. We find other names of tenantry

* An ancient record, dated 15 April, 1316, says that Richard, Lord of Affecote, gave to his son Roger, and to Joan, daughter of Roger de Leynthall, his lands, tenements, and lordship of Affecote, with all rights, liberties, and free customs thereto pertaining. Witnesses—Adam de Sibbeton, Walter Scot, of Acton, Walter Bareth, Robert, the clerk of Stanton Lacy, William Aleyn, of the same, Richard, son of Robert de Heytons, Robert de Molineshull, and others.

† Add. MSS., No. 30,330, folios 168 and 169.

in this neighbourhood entered same time, rated at £2, £3, and £4, but only one as valued in lands, and that at £1 only. This was Edmund Ness; probably he was an old inhabitant of that country (we find "Great Ness" about seven miles to the north-west of Shrewsbury). His son (or near kinsman), as we suppose Richard Ness to be, is valued in goods at £2; Thomas Davys in goods at £4; Richard Dudde in goods at £4; Richard Yoppe in goods at £3; Richard Butler in goods at £2; Richard Harris in goods at £2.* Do they not appear to have been singularly attached to the name of Richard? Why? Probably reminiscences of Bosworth field had somewhat to do with it. The two Henrys taxed their subjects rather heavily, though from different motives.

We may gather some idea of the position of an English yeoman in those days from the following scrap from the writings of an old author, one Mr. Harrison. He says that in Queen Mary's days the Spaniards who visited this country were made to wonder at the "large diet" which was used in many of these so homely cottages, and one of them, a man of no small reputation, remarked that "these English have their houses made of sticks and dirt, but they fare commonly as well as the king."

But, as more appropriate, referring as it does to the same period as the Felhampton subsidy, viz., the reign of Henry the 8th, we may quote the venerable Hugh Latimer, when in

* These were probably born soon after Bosworth fight, as the lapse of years is 38: battle fought in 1485, subsidy taken in 1523.

one of his sermons he describes the economy of a farmer of his time, and tells us that "his father who was a yeoman, had no lands of his own, but only a farm of three or four pounds a year *at the utmost*, and hereupon he tilled so much as kept half a dozen men, that he had a walk for an hundred sheep, and that his mother milked thirty kine. He kept his son at school till he went to the University, and maintained him there. He married his daughters with £5 or 20 nobles apiece; kept hospitality with his neighbours, and gave some alms to the poor, and all this he did out of the said farm."

Land at that time was let at about one shilling per acre; but on the Welsh borders, or in thickly-wooded countries elsewhere, it was probably even half that amount. And we may take Latimer's picture of a yeoman's life as a fair one to represent that of the Felhampton tenantry; although if they began upon "nought but what they carried about them," they must have been an industrious folk to attain to any affluence, and we can scarcely think that they quite vied with the parents of "the venerable Hugh." But who can tell, if there were no mouthpiece to trumpet their deeds, either in rostrum or pulpit, what hidden deeds of healthy industry may have been accomplished at old Felhampton during those few centuries when they "Ate their own lamb, their chicken, and ham; They shear'd their own fleece, and they wore it." And in days more near to us, they would still wind their wool on a great wheel, would grow flax and hemp, which the good wife would spin with her maidens in

the long evenings, and the chatty old travelling weaver, ever welcome, provided he was honest: but who will dare to cast a shadow upon the honour of an "old weaver," that dear departed race?, for he would weave with the materials the good wife gave him, such cloths, such dunnity, as would live, aye, still lives, to shame the shoddy we are doomed to buy in this 19th century. But this is letting old fancies and present memories run away with us. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the value of land rapidly increased, but the comforts and luxuries of the farmers were greatly augmented.

We now turn to the second subsidy* which contains the names of the contributors, whether in lands or goods, and thus forms a census of the inhabitants, which probably was the object aimed at; the collections in intervening years being simply financial statements of the sums collected in each district. It is dated the 35th of Henry the 8th's reign, viz., twenty years later than that already described, and is headed "Ffellampton and Marshe" (or Mershe, as they sometimes spelt it). It is needless to enumerate all the tenantry; they are all rated in goods. John Urwyk's name no longer appears, but Richard Urwyke is there, rated at £5, and paying a subsidy of 1s. 8d., or 4d. in the pound. By this we may judge that John was deceased, and that Richard was his son, and likewise conjecture that "Agnes Urwyke, widow," was Richard's mother. Agnes Urwyke, widow, and William Urwyke (probably a younger son, or brother of

* 166—155, 35 Hen. VIII., A.D. 1543.

Richard) are both rated at £1, and pay each 2d. This assessment of 2d. in the pound applied also to one John Street, who was valued at £3, but all those of £5 and upwards were taxed at the rate of 4d. in the pound. "Richard Yoppe," for instance, who seems to have been in great affluence, being rated at £8, has to pay the sum of 2s. 8d.

Richard Haryngton had now shifted his abode to Little Stretton, three miles north of Felhampton, and was therefore no longer so near a neighbour of his old kinsmen, John's descendants. Now that old John Urwyke was no more, possibly the associations were weakened, and the Haryngtons became mindful of their more illustrious descent. Richard Haryngton is here rated in goods at £6 13s. 4d., and pays a subsidy of 2s., which is 4d. in the pound on the £6. We cannot explain the mystery of the odd 13s. 4d.

There is another subsidy* two years later, viz., in the year 1545, when the name of Urwyke does not appear in the collections for "Felhampton," but only Richard Yoppe, rated at £8 and taxed 5s. 4d., and Edward Taylor, rated at £5 and paying 3s. 4d. Also at STREFORD we find Edwardus Marston, whose possessions are valued at £6, and he pays 4s. Richard Haryngton, of Little Stretton, is valued at £5, and pays 3s. 4d., but now there appears a Thomas Harington, valued at £6 and paying 4s., which leads us to surmise that possibly Richard was the son of Richard Harington first mentioned, and that Thomas was his elder brother, but it is by no means

* 166—187, 37 Hen. VIII.

conclusive, as the old gentleman may have retired from agricultural pursuits, and holding but a small tenure, have been rated low accordingly.

The next entry of the name of Urwyke is found four years after the above, and occurs in the succeeding reign of Edward the 6th. There are three subsidies in the one year of 1549,* and the name is once spelt URWYKE, and twice URWICKE, and the latter mode remained after this period, with the exception of the dropping of the final *e* in more modern times. These collections are headed "Phellaton and Streford," and JOHN URWYKE or URWICKE is rated in goods at £10, and pays 10s. each time, also Richard Yoppe and John Walker the same. And now again the name of Thomas Harington appears as of Little Stretton, similarly rated, and paying the same 1s. per 20s. of valuation.

It was in the first year of this good young king's reign, viz., on the 15th February, 1547,† that an act was passed releasing small landed proprietors from the burden of compulsory knighthood which was found in times of peace to be heavy upon them, not only from their being obliged to have a certain quota of men at their command, but also from certain expenses attending the ceremony of taking out their patents. Sir Richard Rich, Sir Richard Southwell, and Sir Thomas Moyse were commissioned to compound with such persons as desired exemption. But it is unlikely that our

* 167—3, 167—9, 167—11, 3 Edw. VI.

† Rymer Tom XV., page 124.

friends of Felhampton and Little Stretton were in any way affected or benefited by this amendment, as they had for a long time been in the position of simple yeomen or tenant-farmers.

No subsidy appears to have been levied during the short and troubled reign of Queen Mary. The next entry of the names of tenantry appears in the 13th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth,* and is headed "Ffellaton, Downe, Marshe, Alcaston, Affecote, Streford, and Orneysgrove."† The person who made this collection was certainly not a learned scribe, for several names are mis-spelt; for example, Marston is written Marson, Baldwyn Bawden, and John Urwicke's name is spelt Yerricke, which is evidently a phonetic rendering.

John Urwicke (*alias* Yerricke) is here rated in goods at £3, and pays 5s., as do several others, as Burnell, Butler, Mason, Marston, and Taylor; while Charles Baldwyn is rated at £4, and pays 6s. 8d.; and Watts, James, and Blucke are rated at £5, paying each 8s. 4d. Thomas Haryngton, of Stretton, is rated at £3, and pays 5s.

The collectors appear to have had a very hasty and superficial method of grouping the districts included in their rounds under one head, as "Felhampton," for example; and when they did make mention of the names of the other places

* 167—41, A.D. 1570.

† Orneus, or Ornus grove, evidently from the wild or mountain ash which there abounds. It is now known as the "Grove," till of late the property of Lord Craven.

in their beat,—Down, The Marsh, Strefford, etc.,—they never particularised the inhabitants of each locality, so that we have to go upon conjecture that Urwick was of Felhampton, Marston of Afcott, etc. We have, however, some exceptions, and we find one in the reign of Charles the 1st, as will presently appear.

The succeeding subsidy taken in the 35th year of good Queen Bess's reign, now claims our attention, headed "Fellhampton," and running thus:—

Subsidy 167—86, A.D. 1592.

Thomas Mason, in goods,	£4	-	-	-	10s. 8d.
John Marston,	£4	-	-	-	10s. 8d.
Charles Baldwyn,	£4	-	-	-	10s. 8d.
Robert Burnell,	£6	-	-	-	16s. od.
Francis Burnell,	£3	-	-	-	8s. od.
John Urwicke,	£3	-	-	-	8s. od.
Richard Yoppe,	£3	-	-	-	8s. od.
William Blucke,	£3	-	-	-	8s. od.
Thomas Butler,	£3	-	-	-	8s. od.

Edward Ness is rated in lands at £2; Thomas Baugh in lands at £1 6s. 8d.; Thomas James, sen., at £2; Thomas James, jun., at £1,—and each taxed at 4s. in the pound, viz., paying respectively 8s., 5s. 4d., 8s., and 4s. It will be noticed that those assessed in goods paid at the rate of 2s. 8d. in the pound. John Haryngton, of Little Stretton, was assessed in lands, 40s., and paid 8s.

Next we find a subsidy of the 21st year of James the 1st, under the head of "Afcot and Felhampton," and here all the tenants are rated in lands. It evidently includes many of the adjoining estates before mentioned.

The list runs as follows :—

Subsidy 167—166, A.D. 1623.

Richard James,	<i>in terris</i> ,	20s.,	paid	4s.
Edward Urwicke,	„	20s.,	„	4s.
William Ness,	„	40s.,	„	8s.
Richard Baugh,	„	40s.,	„	8s.
Edward Marston,	„	40s.,	„	8s.
William Jurdan,	„	20s.,	„	4s.
Edward Harries,	„	30s.,	„	6s.
Roger Posterne,	„	20s.,	„	4s.
Thomas Baughe,	„	20s.,	„	4s.
John Thynne, Esq.,	„	80s.,	„	16s.

We have no means of determining where this John Thynne or Thinne, Esq., was then located. We find in Collins' Peerage that Sir John Thynne died 21st September, 1604, and it is stated that his second son John was seated at Church Stretton, but his name does not here appear as of Stretton, but as contiguous to Felhampton, so possibly at that period he may have been at Alcaston.* Again we find John Haryngton at Little Stretton, rated *in terris*, i.e., in lands, at 30s., and paying, like Harries, the subsidy of 6s.

The next list of names which appears is taken on the accession of the unfortunate Charles the 1st, and judging

* With regard to the old family of Thynne, or "The-Inn," a history of them may be found in the work by Beriah Botfield, entitled "Memorials of the Families of De Boteville, Thynne, and Botfield of Salop and Wilts." In the village of Horningham, Wilts, stands a little chapel, dated 1566, which was built by some Scottish Presbyterian artisans, employed in building Sir John Thynne's mansion at Longleat, upon some land of which Sir John granted them a lease, the said artisans having been wont to meet for worship previously in Penny's Wood.

from the valuation being exactly similar, it would seem that Walter Blunt, Esq., was now occupying the same estate which was previously held by John Thynne. Walter Blunt's name stands first on the list headed "Felhampton," which indeed we cannot but suppose was a kind of central depôt for these collections. Possibly the Great Hall may have still been in existence, and occupied by the landlord; the remainder being underlet in holdings of varied extent. Here follows the subsidy in question, viz., of the 1st year of the reign of Charles I.

A.D. 1625, Subsidy 167—184.

Walter Blunt, Esq.,	<i>in terris</i> ,	80s.,	paid	16s.
William Ness,	"	40s.,	"	8s.
Edward Marston,	"	40s.,	"	8s.
Edward Urwicke,	"	20s.,	"	4s.
Thomas Baughe,	"	20s.,	"	4s.
Roger Posterne,	"	20s.,	"	4s.
Richard James,	"	20s.,	"	4s.
Andrew Posterne	"	20s.,	"	4s.
William Craven, Esq.,	for			
the farm of Ornesgrove,	"	30s.,	"	6s.
Richard Baughe,	"	20s.,	"	4s.
William Jurdan,	"	20s.,	"	4s.

Under the head of "Little Stretton," we find, as in 1623, John Haryngton rated in lands at 30s., and taxed 6s.

The Interregnum, or Commonwealth, so called, gave birth to a deep-thinking, self-denying, and of necessity a suffering race called Puritans. Feeling that the licence of the age left them only the hope of the hypocrite if they halted between

two opinions, they denied themselves many things which God has given us richly to enjoy, in order to oppose, by superior force, the Satanic army who are ever striving to turn God's blessings into a curse upon His creatures of mankind. Much glory and praise be unto their noble army, and to the martyrs who sprang from them.

These Puritan families were guiding stars for future generations. One line of the descendants of the Felhampton Pilgrim (as we may appropriately term him) enlisted itself on the side of those who sympathized with the Parliament, and appears to have in some degree become consequently separated from the rest of the family, who accepted not their political views. Thus after the expiration of the Commonwealth, and at the accession of Charles the 2nd, on the 2nd October, 1661, a system of free subscriptions having been instituted throughout the country in the new monarch's favour, we have an opportunity of judging to a certain degree the amount of enthusiasm which more or less prevailed with the various contributors. Take, for example, the names which occur in the list within the hundred of Mounslow, where we find, after diligently searching down column after column, the following names:—

Lay Subsidy 168—214, 13 Carl. II., 1661.

William Urwick, yeoman	- - - -	2s. od.
Samuel Urwick, yeoman	- - - -	2s. 6d.
Edward Urwick, of Felhampton	- - -	4s. od.

Also of Stretton we find—

John Harrington, gentleman	- - - -	6s. od.
William Harrington, yeoman	- - - -	1s. od.

HARYNGTONS AND URWICKS NAMED SIDE BY SIDE IN THE LAY SUBSIDIES
AS RESIDENT IN SHROPSHIRE FROM A.D. 1523 TO 1662.

Lay Subsidy.

166—165 { RICHARD URYWK, Felhampton. { WILLIAM URYWK, Felhampton.
 { JAMES HARYNGTON, Little Stretton. { THOMAS HARYNGTON, 35 & 37 Hen. VIII.
 | | [1543, 1545.]

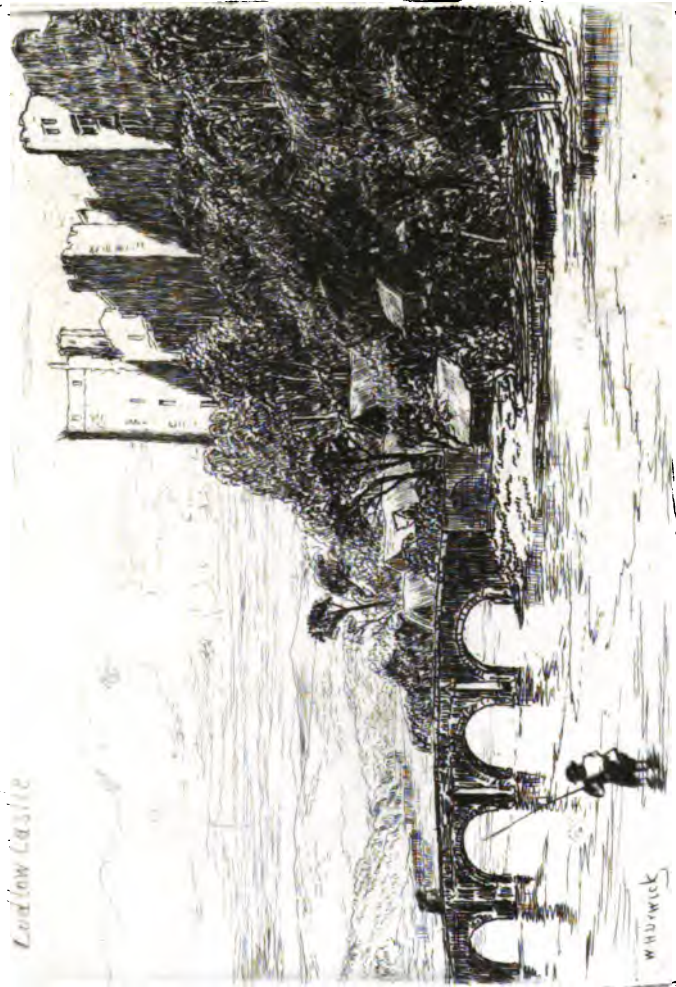
167—41 { JOHN URWYK (Yerrick), 13 Eliz. 1571.
 { THOMAS HARYNGTON, Little Stretton.

167—86 { JOHN URWICKE, Felhampton.
 { JOHN HARRINGTON, Little Stretton, 35 Eliz. 1592-3.

167—166 { EDWARD URWICKE, Felhampton.
JOHN HARRINGTON, Little Stretton, 21 James I. 1623-4.

167—184 { EDWARD URWICKE, Felhampton.
JOHN HARYNGTON, Little Stretton. 1 Charles I. 1625-6.

	[hampton.		
168—214	{ EDWARD URWICK, Fel- JOHN HARRINGTON,	WILLIAM URWICK, yeoman WILLIAM HARRINGTON,	SAMUEL URWICK, yeoman, 13 Chas. II. 1662.
	{ gentleman. (Urwicks of Felhampton.)	{ yeoman. (Urwicks of Bishop's Castle.)	{ (Urwicks of Hanwood and Shelton.)



Leadlow Castle

WHURICK



XVII.

The Shropshire Urwicks.

WE now turn to the three names above quoted, of EDWARD, SAMUEL, and WILLIAM URWICK (*temp.* Chas. II., A.D. 1661), and finding after careful scrutiny, no other recurrence of the name in the Salopian records, we may without fear of committing an error, regard them as the three parent stems (sprung from the old trunk, the fugitive Yorkist of the 15th century) from whom descended the several families of Shrewsbury and Shelton, Bishops Castle and The Moor, Clungunford and Broom, &c.; and from them the "old home" of Felhampton was continuously supplied with a tenant of the name, though by no means in direct lineal inheritance. There was and has been evidently, for generations in succession, a feeling which has maintained this old association with the home of their forefathers, but these loves of the bygone age are becoming dimmer day by

day and year by year; material, practical, and present necessities, or what are so deemed to be, become the all-absorbing thought. Family history is but little studied, these divings into the past are utterly obscured, and a man knows not, forsooth, who his grandfather was. How different were the old monkish days when genealogies were traced with the most careful attention. We can imagine old Haryngton and old Urswick meeting alternately at Felhampton and Alcaston, and crooning over their bygone troubles, their fierce struggles, their wounds, and their defeat; and how their sons would find less and less pleasure in hearing these tales as time rolled on, and think their parents might have done better for them. But better for them they could not have done, for they either landed them, or bred them, in a land of peace and plenty, where their future fortunes, so far as worldly prosperity may so be termed, were secured. A land abounding in rich pastures, grass-clad hills which make the long-tailed flocks grow fat, fertile valleys for the beeves and finer breeds of sheep, producing in these latter days the "Shropshire Downs"; and where do the former, viz., the beeves, thrive better? whether they be Shorthorns, or those honest and quiet-looking old broad white-faced, curly-hided, dark ruddy red-coated Herefords. And what land grows such barley, and what barley makes such malt, and what good housewife of all those who so abound in that hospitable country, did ever out of that malt brew, sitting up all night, such soft and sweet and silky ale as that which was

served at Felhampton? Do not attempt to answer it, dear kinsmen; those times are fled, the housewife ceases to brew in many places, because the exciseman perchance has a voice in the matter, or perchance because it is "too much trouble." Let us not ever lay the flattering unction to our lazy bodies that bought articles are equal to home-made.

The Shrewsbury and Shelton branches of the Urwick family were in all probability one, until differences of taste and education or of religious opinions may have somewhat separated them. Some have been engaged in trade, others in agriculture, and of late years a descendant of that family, born in Shrewsbury, lived afterwards and died at Stow-in-the-Wold, Gloucestershire.*

We now come to speak of the *Hanwood* and *Shelton* Urwicks, originally a Puritan family, who appear to have taken more pains than the other branches to preserve their pedigree, as is shewn in the genealogical table.

SAMUEL URWICK, born between the years 1630 and 1635, and Edward, afterwards the Rev. EDWARD URWICK, rector of Eastham, near Tenbury, Worcestershire, from 1690 until his

* Namely, Thomas Urwick, whose second daughter Elizabeth, on the 3rd of February, 1881, was married to James Austin Drayton, of Oxford, son of T. Drayton, of London. The late Thomas Urwick, of Stow, had two surviving brothers, viz., one at Welshpool, and one at Clifton, near Nottingham, seat of Sir Jakes Clifton. Mr. Drayton writes:—"Priscilla Symonds was my wife's great grandmother. Miss Yellowly was a cousin of my wife's father." See tabular pedigrees. Some descendants of the family still living remember Miss Yellowly's long letters to her cousins, sealed with five seals.

death in 1701, were probably brothers. Edward was master of the Tenbury school. His wife Martha was buried on the 29th of September, 1695, as shewn in the old parish register of Eastham.

From Samuel Urwick, of Shelton, descended SAMUEL, born 20th July, 1687.

This was the Samuel Urwick who in 1737,* in the Easter term, bought of Matthew Travers, gentleman, and of John Lowe and of Anne Lowe, spinster, conjointly, a messuage, old barn, garden, orchard, and twelve acres of land (meaning arable land), also four acres of meadow, twelve acres of pasture with appurtenances in the parishes of St. Chadd (or Chads) and Great Hanwood in the liberties of Shrewsbury.

Also in 1739† Samuel Urwick bought of Henry Griffithes and his wife Alice, and of George Calcott, Esq., and Sarah his wife, fifty acres of arable land, twenty acres of meadow, ten acres of pasture, and ten acres of furze and heath, with appurtenances in the township of Cruckton, parish of Pontesbury, being four to five miles s.w. of Shrewsbury.

SAMUEL URWICK had two sons, William and Thomas. Of the younger son Thomas, let us first speak, and afterwards of his brother William.

THOMAS URWICK, second son of Samuel Urwick, was born on the 8th December, 1727, at Shelton, near Shrewsbury where he received his classical education. He was subsequently under the care of the Rev. Job Orton, whose ministry his parents attended, so far as his religious education was concerned; his academical studies being pursued from 1747 under the direction of Dr. Doddridge at Northampton,

* See Fines, in Record Office, Fetter Lane, -No. 307.

† Fines, Nos. 307 and 471 are 11 and 13 George II.

till the death of that eminent divine. In 1752 he went to the University of Glasgow, where he finished his academic studies under Dr. Leechman. He was for many years a minister at Worcester (1754-1775), and was universally respected. At that time we find that he was married, but we do not learn that he had any family. On leaving Worcester, for the sake of greater retirement, he and Mrs. Urwick spent a short time with some friends near London, and then removed to Narborough, near Leicester; but he was afterwards prevailed upon to accept the non-conformist ministry which was vacant by the death of Dr. Furneaux at Clapham in 1779. He was chosen to succeed the Rev. Hugh Farmer as trustee for the Academy in which he had been educated, which was then fixed at Wymondley, afterwards called Coward College.

This Rev. Thomas Urwick was always spoken of with great respect, not only by the body to which he belonged, but also by members of the Established Church. One of his good deeds has been especially mentioned.* By his kindly advice and intervention, he succeeded in rescuing from a very unhappy situation a youth named Joseph Lancaster, who was in danger of being lost to his parents and to the world, and restoring him to a sphere of usefulness. This was the Joseph

* Monthly Repository, Vol. II., 1807, p. 161. *Gentleman's Mag.*, 1807, p. 282. Also *Bible Truths and Church Errors*, by W. Urwick, M.A., p. 236 sqq. See also *Sketches*, part I, by Henry Dunn, 1848. A portrait in crayons of the Rev. Thomas Urwick hangs in the room of the Coward Trustees, New College, Hampstead, presented to the Trustees by Dr. Wilkinson, April 8, 1834.

Lancaster who afterwards distinguished himself by introducing an expeditious method of teaching, designated the Lancasterian system. The Rev. Thomas Urwick died at Balham Hill, near Clapham, in the 81st year of his age, having been for 26 years pastor of the Protestant dissenting church in the parish of Clapham. He lies buried in a tomb on the north side of the old church, known as St. Paul's of that ilk, having died on the 26th February, 1807. Here also are deposited the remains of his wife Mary, who died 17th June, 1791, aged 65.

A very old and attached friend of the family, who was engaged in business with the long since departed THOMAS URSWICK, of 11, Rood Lane, and afterwards of 34, Great Tower Street, who was also partner in the same business with his son William Urwick who died in 1850, stated that on the occasion of the Rev. Thomas Urwick coming to London from his native place of Salop in 1779, he was accompanied by this other above-mentioned Thomas Urwick, who was then a young man about to seek his fortune in the great city. This indicates, in the absence of registers or any other substantial testimony, a friendly link of kinship between the two branches of Shelton and Broom, and we must not omit to add that Thomas Urwick, of London, was of the same religious persuasion as his Reverend kinsman, and was a constant frequenter of the Weighhouse Chapel, which was formerly in Eastcheap. His descendants, however, have adhered to the Established Church.

WILLIAM URWICK, of Shelton, was born the 29th September, 1725. He married on the 26th December, 1749, Ellinor ~~E~~ Eddowes,* eldest daughter of Ralph Eddowes, of White Hurst, by his second wife Ellinor Carter, of Shrewsbury. This William Urwick must have increased the estate of his father Samuel, as is evident from the amount of property sold in the next generation, but not coming under the head of "Fines," we do not obtain any record of it. This William Urwick, son of Samuel, died on 24th February, 1766.

Whitchurch,
Salop.
Eleanor Eddowes
was born at Whil
church 3 Apr. 1711
and died 8 June 1

WILLIAM URWICK, son of the above William and Ellinor Urwick, was born 2nd October, 1750. On the 6th of April, 1779, he married Ellinor Eddowes,† a niece of his mother, viz., the second daughter of her brother Joshua (son of Ralph aforesaid). It was probably on this occasion of his marriage that he, William Urwick, in order to make a home for his bride and himself, did at Michaelmas, 1780,‡ purchase of William Salkeld and his wife Hannah (on the morrow of All Souls) a messuage and half an acre of land with appurtenances at Hencott in the parish of St. Alkemics in the town of Shrewsbury. This William Urwick, son of William and

* Ellinor ~~E~~ Eddowes was born 3rd April, 1716, and died 8th June, 17⁹⁵55. Her father Ralph was baptised 28th February, 1686, and buried 1st February, 1727. GREAT HANWOOD is a parish three and a half miles from Shrewsbury on the road leading to Montgomery. The township of SHELTON gives its name to the wide-famed OAK, from which Owen Glendwr is said to have beheld the battle of Shrewsbury.

† Ellinor born December 26th, 1757, died June 23rd, 1853. Joshua Eddowes, printer, was born 15th April, 1724, married to Lydia Phillips, of Horsman's Green, died 23rd September, 1811.

‡ Feet of Fines, 430, Michaelmas term, 21 Geo. III.

grandson of Samuel, disposed of the whole of his landed property, which had been accumulated by himself, his father, and grandfather, in Easter term, 1790, viz., one year before the birth of his son William. Supposing this to be an error in taste and judgment, as it now appears to us, other members of the family have done the same thing, have disposed of their landed property, and invested the proceeds in *trade*, as did this William Urwick, preferring a present affluence or what appeared to them so to be, to the anxieties, thrift, and varying profits, but at the same time certain advantages as regards health and social status, which we cannot fail to recognize in an agricultural life.

The particulars of the sale in question are as follows, viz.:*

That within eight days of the Purification of the Blessed Mary, William Urwick and Ellinor his wife (deforciants) sold to Walter Tench, gentleman (plaintiff), three messuages, twelve gardens, 100 acres of land, 100 acres of meadow, 150 acres of pasture, besides common land (for all manner of cattle), with appurtenances in the parishes of St. Chad, Great Hanwood, and Pontesbury.

A year after the sale of this property comprising 360 acres or rather more, WILLIAM URWICK (son of William and Ellinor) was born on the 8th December, 1791; and his father died on the 7th April, 1799.† He entered the Dissenting College of Hoxton‡ on the 29th July, 1812, then under the care of Dr.

* Feet of Fines, 345, Easter term, 31 Geo. III. (1790).

† *The Life and Letters of William Urwick, D.D., of Dublin*, edited by his son; published by Hodder & Stoughton, 27, Paternoster Row.

‡ Founded in 1744. Dr. Simpson was appointed in 1791.

Robert Simpson, M.A., having been previously the pupil of the Rev. Thomas Belsher, of the Red House School, Rainbow Hill, Worcester. On the 16th of June, 1818, he married Sarah, the second daughter of Mr. Thomas Cooke, of Shrewsbury. His earnest and faithful work of Evangelizing or Protestantizing in Ireland may be read in the work by his son by any who may be interested in the memory of this worthy and pious man. Here we will content ourselves with a few remarks made by the Rev. Edward Steane, D.D., Hon. Sec. of the Evangelical Association, in his "Personal Recollections."

He speaks of William Urwick's first pastoral charge at Sligo, where he laboured for ten years, captivating his Irish congregation by his lively and affectionate manner, and acquiring a great moral influence over the people generally. After the ten years had elapsed, Mr. Urwick's sphere of action was removed to Dublin.

At that period (Mr. Steane goes on to say) duelling was much in vogue, and hearing on an occasion that a field officer who had served under Wellington, and fought bravely at Badajoz, had received a challenge, Urwick sought and gained a private interview with the would-be antagonist, found him dining with his family, all of them ignorant of what was about to take place, and by his persuasive argument succeeded in preventing the duel.

Dr. Urwick was very highly esteemed, not only by his own denomination, but by every member of the Church where his ministry was conducted; nor were his friendships restricted to Ireland only, for many distinguished men in England and other countries numbered him among their most valued correspondents. He received the degree of D.D. from Dartmouth College, U.S.A., in 1832.

The Right Hon. Joseph Napier, ex-Lord Chancellor of Ireland, spoke of him as being "firm in his views, gentle in his intercourse, strong in his

gentleness, and firm in his faith." He was the author of many publications on evangelical and prophetic subjects,—a score of which may be seen in the Library of the British Museum. Dr. and Mrs. Urwick had five children born to them during their residence in Sligo. Two died in early infancy. Samuel, aged six, died in 1838; their second son, Thomas Hawley, a young and aspiring civil engineer, engaged upon a new railway in Kentucky, died on the 6th of October, 1854, at Louisville, U.S. His mother had died two years previously, viz., on the 21st of August, 1852, in the 61st year of her age. And now he was bereft of all but his three daughters and one son, William, a student of Dublin University, where he had gained honours, and was then occupying a ministry at Hatherlow, Cheshire. Doctor Urwick died on the 16th of July, 1868, and was buried in the family vault at Mount Jerome Cemetery. Among his friends who belonged to the Established Church were Dr. Daly, afterwards Bishop of Cashel; Dr. Singer, afterwards Bishop of Meath; Dr. Gregg, afterwards Bishop of Cork; Dr. Todd, librarian of Trinity College; Sydney Smith, professor of Biblical Greek.

We should have liked to have been able by some means to trace the connexion of the Shelton family with the other Urwicks of Shrewsbury, of whom we hear as having settled in Welshpool, etc., but in a kind reply to a note of enquiry addressed to the Rev. John Breese, rector of Hanwood (1880), that gentleman regrets that some eight or nine years since the register books were destroyed by fire, and he finds among the tombstones of the family none earlier in date than 30th July, 1772, being in memory of an infant daughter of Samuel and Priscilla Urwick, who was evidently Samuel the brother of William of Shelton, and of the Rev. Thomas Urwick, of Clapham. Another Samuel Urwick of later date, for whom we cannot render an account, was a grandson, representing

the Bishop's Castle or Beckjay family. He in the Michaelmas term of the year 1818,* with his wife Elizabeth, sold an estate exceeding 100 acres in Edgerley to William Price, Esq. Edgerley is situated about twelve miles N.W. of Shrewsbury, about two miles N.E. of Molverley.

Some four or five generations back, no doubt the Urwicks of the Moor and other Bishop's Castle branches were closely linked together as one family, but afterwards we find them in three distinct families, namely, that of BROOM, that of THE MOOR, and that of BECKJAY.

The BROOM family is represented by JOHN URWICK and his family of Crowsmoor in Salop, and by the sons of the late William Urwick, of London, the eldest representative being W. H. Urwick, and next to him Samuel John Urwick, the writer of these memoirs being the third son.

Of the MOOR family, we have first BENJAMIN URWICK of the Moor, on occasion of whose marriage with Miss Collins an estate† passed from the hands of his father-in-law and mother-in-law, namely, Thomas Collins, gentleman, and Jane his wife in the year 1765. This Benjamin had a son, RICHARD, afterwards of Montgomeryshire, a tanner. He, in turn, was the father of EDWARD of "the Moor," and afterwards of Felhampton; also of RICHARD URWICK, whose

* Fines, No. 371, 59 Geo. III.

† "Consisting of two messuages, one barn, two gardens, an orchard, thirty acres of arable land, twenty of meadow, fifty of pasture, and ten of furze and heath, with appurtenances, in the parish of Norbury." Fines, Hilary term, No. 464, 6 Geo. III.

residence near the village of Walton, Old Radnor, is noticed in *Beauties of England and Wales*.* This Richard had eight sons, of whom only one married, namely, EDWARD URWICK, of Presteign, Radnorshire. This Edward was an invalid, and the care of his children, three sons and two daughters, devolved upon their uncle Richard.

The BECKJAY family were probably connected, as we have said, with the Urwicks of Hanwood through Samuel Urwick, son of the Samuel who married Priscilla Symonds (see the pedigree). The grandson SAMUEL URWICK, of Beckjay, married Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Walker, of Stowe, having sons,—Samuel Walker Urwick, of Hereford, and William Walker Urwick, of London, who now represent this branch.

The history of Felhampton is divided into three epochs, namely, the existence of three dwellings thereupon,—first, the Old Hall, or Great Hall or Grittall; second, the Old Farm House, in the Old House Meadow; and third, Felhampton Court, for several generations the residence of Urwicks, and now occupied by John Hill, Esq.

We left the succession of the Urwicks of Felhampton in the first year of the reign of Charles II.; we left it on compulsion, there being no further records to be gathered from Lay Subsidies, as government no longer deemed it necessary to adhere to such costly and extreme measures as that of taking the names of each individual taxpayer.

* By Thos. Rees, F.S.A., p. 894.

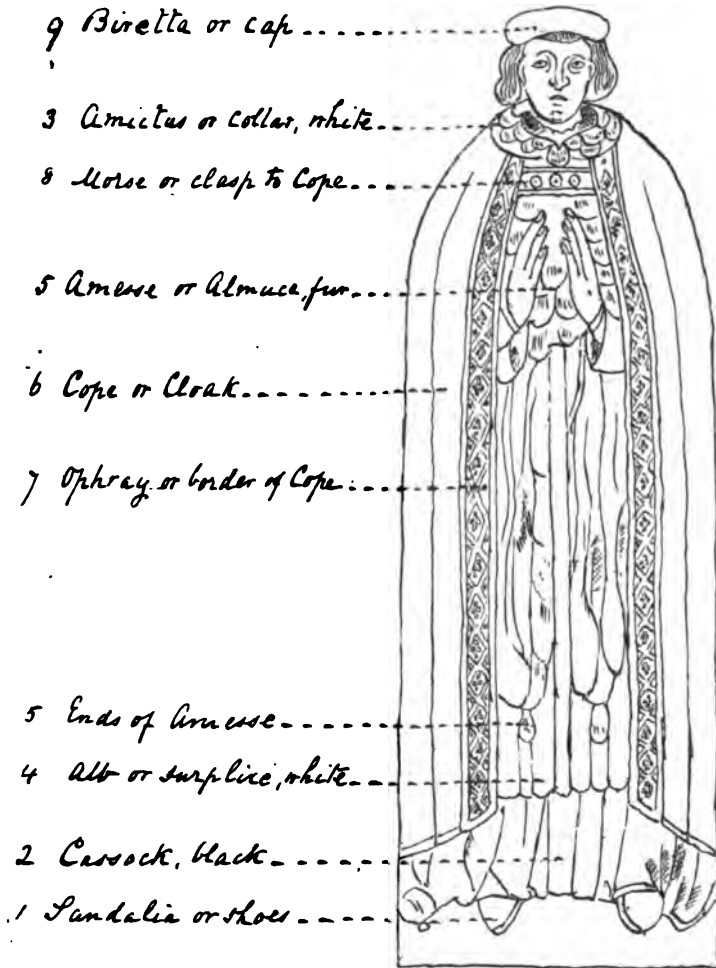
In consequence of this cessation, a lapse of some 80 years or odd occurs, during which time, it is probable, an Urwick of Felhampton existed and passed away. Again in the middle of the succeeding century, another Edward Urwick was of Felhampton (1740 to 1760), who was in the memory of those now departed as having had three daughters and no son. He was succeeded by a William Urwick, of Felhampton, of whom we only learn that he was six feet three inches in height, and is buried at the church of Acton Scott. He was succeeded by Edward Urwick, of the Moor, as previously stated; and Edward, by his son Richard, one of the best, kindest, and most hospitable of men, in whom perished the connexion, so long cherished of the name of Urwick with that of the old house of Felhampton; he had no son to succeed him, and no member of the family resumed the tenancy.

Nothing more remains to be added. The details concerning the various members of now existing and lately existing branches of the Urwick family, and their connexion one with another are necessarily incomplete, but will be found, as far as has been ascertained, in the tabular pedigrees that follow. The bygone history of the family is of as early a date as any Anglo-Norman or Saxon origin could desire, namely, from the Conquest. In the hands of any possessor of that divine *afflatus* which sheds a glamour over dry facts, it might become a very romantic history. But is that desirable? and is not plain truth the best and most lasting tale? The compiler

has written nought here but what he believes to be PLAIN TRUTH; and he now affectionately bids his kinsmen *adieu* with this remark:—that as the possessors of the name of Urwick are, compared with the possessors of other family names, a remarkably small community, should the perusal of these Records tend in the slightest degree to excite or foster a feeling which may in any way conduce to the “union in one common bond” of those various and perhaps scattered branches who owe their origin to the old Felhampton tree, then they will not have been written in vain.

THE END.

Christopher Usomick



Arms inlaid upon his altar Tomb now in Hackney Church

NOTES.

I.

EXPLANATION OF THE EFFIGY OF CHRISTOPHER URSWICK, PAGE 124.

The brass effigy of Christopher Urswick, still to be seen upon his altar tomb in the vestibule of Hackney Church, is of much interest ecclesiastically, for such brasses are rare after 1520. It is very perfect, and distinctly shows the several Processional vestments worn by a priest in the sixteenth century, such, that is, as were used in the choir and in the body of the church or outside, but not at Mass.

When the priest of this date would robe himself for service he would first put on the *sandalia* or shoes (1); next his *Cassock* of black (2) with close-fitting sleeves, and reaching down to the ground; then thirdly the *amictus* or amice, a white collar covering the neck and shoulders (3), bending his head and reverently kissing it in the middle, on which a cross was worked. Fourthly he would put on the *Alb* or surplice of white linen (4), differing from the garment used in the English Establishment in having close instead of loose sleeves. Fifthly he would put on the *amesse* or *almuce*, a furred hood having long ends hanging down in front of the dress (5), a garment worn by the clergy of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries for warmth when officiating in church during cold weather. In the case of Dr. Urswick its lining would be the colour of the Oxford hood. This was worn by priests under the cope, and by canons over the cope. Sixthly he would put on the *cope* or cloak (6), with *ophray* or border evidently embroidered richly (7), and eighthly its *morse* or clasp, fastening it across the chest (8). Then lastly he would put on the *biretta* or cap (9), and his equipment would be complete. In case of Mass he would require the *Stole*, a band of embroidered silk across the shoulders and hanging down on each side in front, but not shown upon the brass. It is evident that preparation for service, as far at least as dress was concerned, must have been a serious matter, occupying no little time, with the clergy of those days.

II.

URSWICK CHURCH.

Lambeth Survey, *circ.* 1650, vol. iii., f. 76. "The said Jurors doe affirm upon oath that the parish Church of URSWICK (which said parish extends itself in longitude four miles and a half, and in latitude three miles, the church being seated in the middle of the parish), is a vicaradge presentative from the Duchy of Lancaster, and that the Tythes of Corne and graine are impropriate to Mr. Fleminge, of Rydall, Mr. Anderton, of Bardsley—papist delinquent, and to the Parishioners, worth in all sixty pounds *per ann.* to the Impropriators. And say further that the said parish conteynes within it the severall townships hereafter expressed, distant from their parish church as following, viz.,

Urswicke, where the church is seated,

Stainton, distant as aforesaid two miles and a halfe,

Bardsley, two myles,

Adgarley, one myle and a halfe,

Little Urswick, half a mile.

And that there is lykewise belonging to the said Vicaradge a Vicaradge house in decay, and about two acres of gleabe land. And the said Jurors say likewise that there belongeth to the said vicaradge wooll, lambe, pigg, goose, hay, hempe, flaxe, and small tythes through the whole parish, and that the value of the proffitts issueing out of the said vicaradge and belonging to the viccar, amounts to the sum of £20 *per ann.*, and they doe say further that the viccar officiating the cure of the church is Mr. NICHOLAS MARSHALL, both viccar of the church and maister of the Free School, but that he is scandalous in life and negligent in both his callings."

See Lambeth MSS., vol. 12, fol. 65-85.

(I.) URWICKS OF HANWOOD,

SAMUEL URWICK,—
 b. cir. 1635, named in
 Subs. 13th Charles II., 1661-2
 (see p. 208), buried at Hanwood.

SAMUEL
 born July 20, 1687; mar. Aug. 28, 1722; died Mar.
 buried at Hanwood. Resided at Shelton
 Shrewsbury to attend Rev. Job Orton

Elizabeth, WILLIAM URWICK,—Ellinor E. Eddowes, **THOMAS URWICK,—Mary.**
 b. Oct. 23, 1723, b. Sept. 29, 1725, b. Apr. 3, 1717, b. Dec. 8, 1727, b. 1726, 1
 d. Dec. 24, 1726. d. Feb. 24, 1766, m. Dec. 26, 1749, the Rev. Thos. Urwick, d. 1791.
 of Shelton. d. June 8, 1795. minister of Clapham, no issue,
 Add. MSS. 24, 458. d. Feb. 26, 1807, buried at Clapham.

WILLIAM URWICK,—Ellinor Eddowes, **Sarah,** d. J
 b. Oct. 2, 1750, b. Dec. 26, 1757, b. June 28, 1752, age
 d. Apr. 17, 1799, m. Apr. 6, 1779, d. Sept. 7, 1753. mo
 of Shrewsbury. d. June 23, 1853,
 aged 95 years, buried at Hanwood.

Sarah, **Ellinor,** **Sarah,** **Lydia,** **WILLIAM URWICK, D.I**
 b. Mar. 20, 1780, b. June 11, 1781, born and died b. Mar. 20, 1784, b. Dec. 8, 1791,
 d. May 8, 1780, d. Dec. 1, 1863, in 1783. d. Nov. 23, 1871. ordained June 19, 1816
 buried at Hanwood. d. July 16, 1868.

Sarah, **Joseph,** **Ellinor,** **Mary,** **WILLIAM URWICK, M.A.—Sophia, dau. o**
 b. May 22, b. and d. b. Nov. 7, b. July 6, 1824, of Trinity Coll., Dublin, Thos. Hunter
 1820. 1821. 1822. d. Mar. 27, 1825. b. Mar. 8, 1826, of Manchester
 now of London and St. Albans. ordained June 19, 1851, b. Feb. 18, 18
 m. June 1. 18

Henrietta **Sarah —Sydney Turner** **Amy —Robert Goodbody,** **WILLIAM EDDO**
Mary. **Elizabeth, Klein, F.L.S.,** **Sophia,** **B.A.,** **URWICK, M.A**
 m. Apr. 17, F.R.A.S. d. May 5, m. July 4, 1882. of Trin. Coll., Ox
 1883. 1883. b. June 3, 18

(II.) URWICKS OF STOW-ON-AVON

SAMUEL URWICK
 b. 1771, d. Feb. 16, 1861, in
 90th year, buried at Hanwood.

Sarah,—John Hassell, **SAMUEL URWICK,—Elizabeth** **JOSEPH**
 b. 1809, of Llanfair. b. 1810, now of Hopwell, b. 1812,
 d. 1879. Clifton, Nottingham. m. 1850, d. 1883. no
 Sarah Elizabeth,—Charles Jackson
 b. 1852, m. 1878.

Sarah Ann—Frederick **Elizabeth,—J. Austin Drayton,** **JOSEPH**
 m. Jan. 24, 1881. Wickison. m. Feb. 1, 1881. of Oxford. b. 18

WOOD, SHELTON, AND SHREWSBURY.

EDWARD URWICK,=Martha,
Rector of Eastham, Master of d. 1695.
Tenbury School, Worcestershire,
b. circ. 1640, d. 1701. (See Urwicks of Broom.)

SAMUEL URWICK,=Sarah Wright,
died May 27, 1773; born Feb. 23, 1697; died Sept. 7, 1788,
at Shelton, came to buried at Hanwood, aged 91 years.
ob Orton's ministry.

SAMUEL URWICK,=Priscilla Symonds, Sarah, Mary, Mary, Joseph,
b. Sept. 29, 1729, m. Nov. 9, 1759, b. Aug. 18, 1735, b. and d. b. Dec. 25, b. Sept. 23, 1741,
d. 1802, buried d. at Hanwood 1801, d. May 30, 1772. 1738. 1739. d. June 12, 1770.
at Hanwood. buried at Hanwood.

Priscilla, THOMAS URWICK,= SAMUEL URWICK,=Elizabeth JOSEPH, Sarah = Jacob
d. July 30, 1772, b. 1771, Evans. lived at Urwick. | Yellowley.
aged 5 yrs. & 10 d. 1861. attended A daughter,
mos. buried at Thomas. Henry. Ann. Elisa. See Urwicks of resided at Hanwood.
Hanwood. Stow. Swan Hill, See Ch. Hulton's
no family. Hist. of Shrews-
bury, II. 285.

RICK, D.D.=Sarah, dau. of Thos. Cooke, of Shrewsbury,
b. Sept. 29, 1791, m. June 16, 1818, d. Aug. 21, 1852,
buried at Mount Jerome, Dublin.

THOMAS URWICK, C.E. Lydia Mary, Samuel, Elizabeth, Jonathan,
b. Dec. 12, 1827, b. Dec. 9, 1829, b. Apr. 7, 1832, b. Mar. 22, 1834. b. Dec. 16, 1835,
d. Oct. 6, 1854, d. Jan. 24, 1831. d. Apr. 27, 1838. d. Feb. 27, 1837.
at Louisville, Kentucky, U.S.A.

THOMAS HUNTER THOMAS HUNTER EDWARD JOHNS Elinor Grace Alfred Hawley Florence
URWICK, URWICK, URWICK, M.A., b. Apr. 22, 1869, b. Oct. 30, 1870, Kathleen.
b. Dec. 27, 1865. Wadham Coll., Oxford, d. July 26, 1874. d. July 29, 1874.
b. June 20, 1867.

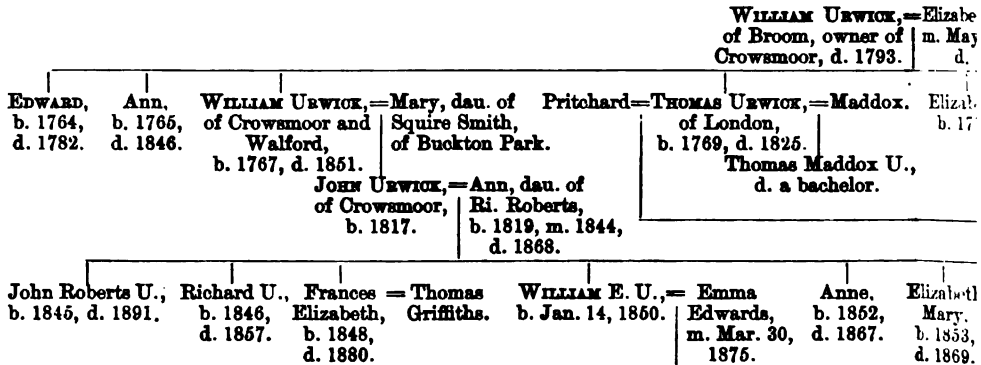
OW-ON-THE-WOLD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

URWICK,=Elizabeth Evans,
d. circ. 1830
at Llandrindio.

JOSEPH URWICK, Elizabeth,=Thomas THOMAS URWICK,=Mary Ann Timms,
b. 1812, d. Mar. 3, 1883, b. 1814, Lewis, of Shrewsbury, m. Oct. 10, 1849.
not married. Welshpool. d. 1869. b. 1821, d. Oct. 20, 1872,
at Jackson. at Stow-on-the-Wold.

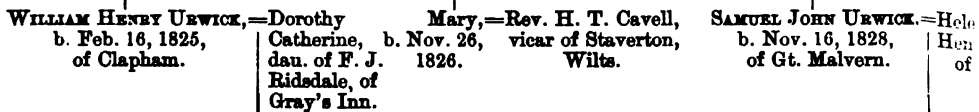
JOSEPH U., THOMAS LEWIS U., Frances WILLIAM SAMUEL U., And others
b. 1854. b. 1858. Ellen. b. 1864. departed this life.

(III.) URWICKS OF BROOM (IN THE



Ri. Henry, b. 1876. Albert W., b. 1877. Mabel Helen, b. 1878. Emma Grace, b. 1881.

Mr
dau
John Fownes



WILLIAM FRANCIS = Florence, URWICK, dau. of b. Sept. 28, 1859. Wentworth Cole.	Marian Catharine.	Beatrice.	Grace = Taverner B. Miller.	Emma Jane.	HUGH STANLEY U., b. July 7, 1871.	Do RIDS b. J 1
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HENRY URWICK, = Annis, b. May 5, 1859, of Worcester.	dau. of Lyndall Whitby, of Yeovil.	Helen = Rev Catherine, b. Aug. 28, 1860.	I M
Lyndall Fownes Urwick, b. Mar. 3, 1891.			

THE PARISH OF CLUNGUNFORD).

Elizabeth Amies,
May 29, 1763,
d. 1810.

Elizabeth, = Geo. Saunders, b. 1771.	Margaret, b. 1774.	JOHN URWICK, = Ursula Dean, schoolmaster Brick House, Ludlow, b. 1776, d. 1831.	m. Jan. 3, 1803.	RICHARD, b. 1778, d. 1797.	CHARLES, b. 1782, d. 1841.
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no issue.

Elizabeth CHARLES U., = Emma Mary. b. 1854. Davies, 1853, m. 1884.	Mary Helen, b. 1859.	Edith Ann, b. 1862, d. 1885.
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Winifred, b. 1885.	Frank, b. 1886.	Kathleen, b. 1889.	Barbara, b. 1890.
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Mary, = WILLIAM URWICK, = Elizabeth, dan. of of London, Fownes. b. 1796, d. 1850.	dan. of Edward Walker, of Kingston.
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Elizabeth = Rev. John Anne. Salwey,	Mary = FREDERICK = Florence Mappin. URWICK, Gibbs.	Ellen.
v. of Broxborne.	b. July 14, 1841.	

= Helen Jane, dau. of THOMAS AUGUSTUS = Elizabeth Henry Chamberlain, URWICK, of Worcester. b. Feb. 10, 1830, d. June 25, 1890.	Anne (see Urwick of the Moor), d. 1892.	EDWARD URWICK, = Hannah, dau. of b. Apr. 26, 1832. Capt. Beebee.
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Lucy.	RICHARD, b. Dec. 26, 1868.	Catharine.	AUGUSTUS, b. Oct. 24, 1873.	CHRISTOPHER, b. May 9, 1876.	BENJAMIN, b. Apr. 8, 1879.
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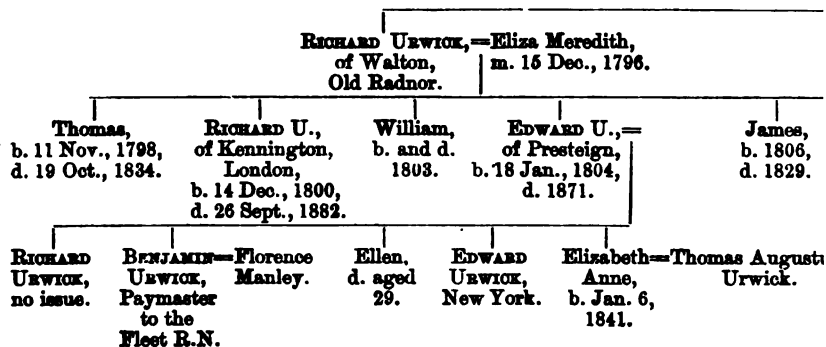
DOUGLAS RIDSDALE U., b. Jan. 24, 1874.	REGINALD HENRY U., b. Feb. 27, 1876.
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= Rev. Aaron Lewis Manby.	Mary Fownes, b. Apr. 10, 1862.	WALTER CHAMBERLAIN URWICK, b. Dec. 17, 1864.	Jessie, b. Nov. 23, 1866.	ARTHUR JOHN U., b. Apr. 22, 1868.	Christine Agnes, b. Dec. 25, 1872.	FRANK DAVIDSON U., b. Aug. 19, 1874.
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(IV.) URWICK

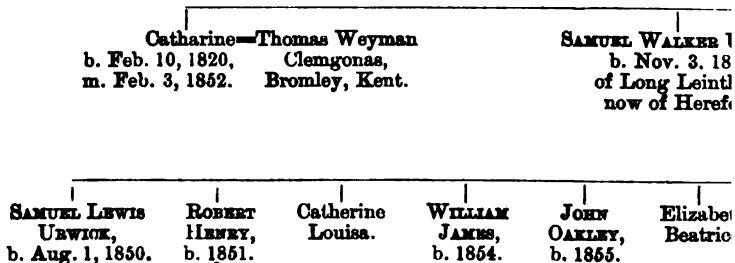
BENJAMIN U
of the M

1



(V.) URWICKS OF BECH

SAMUEL 1
b. Oct. 2
d. Jan. 1



V.) URWICKS OF "THE MOOR."

BENJAMIN URWICK,=the daughter of Thos. and Jane Collins, of the Moor, m. 1766.

EDWARD URWICK,= of Montgomery, Essex.

EDWARD URWICK,= of the Moor and of Felhampton.

James, b. 1806, d. 1829. BENJAMIN U., of Birmingham, b. 17 Jan., 1811. Anne, m. Howard Fletcher. Robert, b. 1813, d. 1829. John, b. 1816, d. 1829.

as Augustus Urwick.

EDWARD U.,= of Felton, near Ludlow, twice m., no issue surviving.

WILLIAM U.,= of Ludlow Castle, solicitor, d. 1870, aged 72.

RICHARD U.,=Charlotte, of Felhampton, d. 5 Dec., 1869, aged 68. d. 15 May, 1874, aged 66, both buried at Richard's Castle, near Ludlow.

Mary Letitia=Rev. Alfred Harry McLaughlin, v. of Bothamsall, Notts. a daughter=Rev. W. Y. Foot.

F BECKJAY (IN THE PARISH OF CLUNGUNFORD).

SAMUEL URWICK,=Elizabeth, dau. of Mr. Walker, of Stowe, b. Oct. 23, 1779, d. Jan. 18, 1855. b. Sept. 4, 1780, m. Apr. 15, 1819, d. Oct. 22, 1860.

VALERIE URWICK,=Kate, dau. of Rev. T. Lewis, Clungunford. ov. 3, 1822, ag Leinthall, of Hereford.

WILLIAM WALKER URWICK,=Fanny, dau. of Blakeway Stelkerton, m. Oct. 19, 1854, at Clungunford. b. Apr. 14, 1825, St. George's Road, London.

Elizabeth, Charles, departed this life.

Fanny.

WILLIAM U., M.R.C.S.E., of Newquay, Cornwall, d. 1886.

Kate. Anne = Capt. Isabel, Horton, m. Feb. 28, 1884.

Elizabeth Beatrice.

Edward Arthur, b. 1860.

Alice Jane.

RICHARD WALKES, b. 1863.

Fanny.

**LIST OF WORKS FROM WHICH THE RECORDS OF THE URSWICKS
HAVE BEEN DRAWN.**

- History of Lancashire by Baines.
 History of Lancashire by Nicolson and Burn.
 History of Cumberland and Westmoreland, by Nicolson and Burn.
 History of Cheshire by Chauncy.
 History of Cheshire by Ormerod.
 History of Essex by Elizabeth Ogborne.
 History of Ludlow by Thomas Wright.
 History of South Yorkshire . . . by Hunter.
 History of Whalley by Whitaker.
 History of Richmondshire . . . by Whitaker.
 History of London by Allen.
 Fragments of Lancaster . . . by Gregson.
 Materials for a history of Hen. VII., by Rev. William Campbell, M.A.
 Works on Heraldry, by Burke, Berry, Boutell, Edmondson, Papworth, &c.
 Judges of England, by Edward Foss.
 Antiquities of Furness, by Thomas West.
 Annales Furnesienses, by T. Alcock Beck.
 Longstaffe's Richmondshire.
 Longstaffe's Heraldic Visitations.
 Life of Erasmus, by Dr. Knight.
 Funeral Monuments, by Weever.
 Sepulchral Monuments, by Gough.
 Berry's County Genealogist.
 Nichols' Herald and Genealogist.
 Dr. Marshall's Genealogist.
 State Papers of Henry VIII.
 Papers of Chatham Society, 8120.
 Orridge's Citizens of London.
 Annals of Cartmel, by James Stockdale.
 Catterick Church, by James Raine, sen.

History of Agincourt, by Sir Nicholas Harris Nicolas.

History and Antiquities of Windsor Castle, by Joseph Pote.

Works of Morant, Dugdale, &c.

Ancient Calendars,—as Inquis. Post-mortem, Rotulorum Patentium, and Ducatus Lancastriae.

Cambridge Camden Society's Illustrations of Monumental Brasses, Academies 5625/16.

Harleian MSS., Nos. 891, 1137, 1420, 1468, 1541, 1549, 2076, 2086, and 6159.

Additional MSS., Nos. 14311, 24451, 24458, 24512, 24468 and 70, 30327.

Sloane MSS. Seals XXXII. 51, 1st Hen. VI.

Records and references furnished by James Rusby, Esq., F.R.H.S., of 18, Oppidan's Road, Regent's Park, and by Mr. Joseph Eedes, of 2, George Street, Euston Road, Professor of Heraldry.

Lyson's Environs of London.

Newcourt's Repertorium Ecclesiasticum.

Robinson's History of Hackney.

Lord Bacon's Life of Henry VII.

Wm. Simpson's Memorials of Hackney Church.

Rymer's Foedera.

Many very interesting old *Post-mortem Inquisitions*, &c., *Chancery Suits*, &c., were presented by the late John Robert Daniel Tyssen, of 9, Lower Rock Gardens, Brighton.

This list, with probably some omissions, only includes those works or documents in which materials have been found, and does not include many others, which have been perused in vain.

